

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

MCC project manager, 4 others indicted

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Two separate indictments were filed yesterday in federal court against the MCC International project manager, Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd. president, and three others in connection with the alleged illegal Chinese workers at Pacific Imperial International CNMI LLC's ongoing construction of the casino and resort project in Garapan.

The indictment charged MCC International project manager Yuqing Zhao with harboring illegal aliens.

A separate indictment charged Beilida Overseas president Hui Lu and Beilida's Wencao Guo, Xiu-fang Qi, and Hongwei Ma with harboring illegal aliens. Lu, Guo, and Ma were charged with two counts of harboring illegal aliens. Qi was

See MCC on **Page 4**

Torres to make decision on CUC board Monday

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will issue a decision on Monday whether or not the current members of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board would be retained since the corporation has faced numerous issues regarding the recently cancelled procurement of a much needed 8-to-10-megawatt diesel engine.

Torres told the media yesterday that a decision would soon follow on Monday after he meets with CUC board members yesterday and today. The decision would not only cover

See TORRES on **Page 4**

HSI to go after businesses that hire unauthorized workers

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Businesses that hire unauthorized workers would ultimately find themselves on the watch list of the Homeland Security Investigations, one of the components of the U.S. Immigration and Customs En-

forcement with the Enforcement and Removal Operations being the other one.

ICE, a federal law enforcement agency under the Department of Homeland Security, is the second largest investigative group under the U.S. government next only to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

ICE public affairs officer/spokeswoman Lori K. Haley, in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, said HSI base their investigations related to worksite enforcement on specific intelligence.

"HSI gets its lead in these types of cases from a variety of sources—

See HSI on **Page 4**



POST OFFICE RENAMED

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, second right, hand Jean Sablan a list of fallen CNMI military heroes while Sablan's brother, Ronald, looks at a plaque honoring their father, Segundo, during yesterday's dedication ceremony that renamed the Chalan Kanoa post office into the Segundo T. Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes Post Office. At Torres' right is Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog.

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KIMBERLY T. BAUTISTA

INSIDE



LOCAL

In preparations for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year, Mount Carmel School's leadership recently agreed to hold tuition and fees at their current rates.

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BUSINESS

There are only two countries in the world where Coke doesn't officially operate, and one of them is North Korea.

PAGE 24



LIFE & STYLE

Fox News Channel's parent company fired Bill O'Reilly on Wednesday following an investigation into harassment allegations.

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Local

Probable cause found to charge woman over beating of 8-year-old

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday found probable cause to charge Kaylynn Hebron Deleon Guerrero over the repeated slapping of an 8-year-old boy on the face, punching his stomach, and leaving him outside the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

At the preliminary hearing, Camacho found probable cause to believe that the crimes of assault and battery and child abuse or neglect were committed and the 27-year-old Deleon Guerrero may have committed such offenses.

Camacho ordered Deleon Guerrero to answer the charges.

Arraignment will be on April 24 at 9am.

At the hearing, assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub called to the witness stand police detective Buddy S. Igitol, who is the officer in charge of the case. Assistant public de-

fender Cindy Nesbit served as counsel for the defendant.

Detective Igitol stated in his report that through a school's principal, police officers learned that last April 10, the boy rode a bus from school to a bus stop in Kagman 2, where Deleon Guerrero picked him up.

While driving the car on their way to San Roque, Deleon Guerrero got mad after noticing that the boy was sweating apparently for playing.

She slapped the boy several times and punched him on the stomach. She stopped the car at the former La Fiesta Mall, then told him to get down.

The boy expressed how afraid he was, after the defendant drove off, leaving him alone in the abandoned mall. The report did not mention whether the boy walked on his way home or Deleon Guerrero picked him up later. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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Tourism Topics

A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

The Marianas
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Taste of the Marianas

Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden returns next month to highlight the celebration of May Tourism Month.

The annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority features international cuisine offered by local hotels and other eateries, as well as variety of spirits. This year, the event will be held at Garapan Fishing Base beginning each Saturday evening at 6 p.m. Live entertainment will be featured on the main stage, while weekly competitions highlighted by the Chefs Competition will be held on a secondary stage.

The MVA will also feature other activities throughout the month in celebration of Tourism Month, including trivia questions and giveaways on local radio stations.

Don't miss Taste of the Marianas on May 6, 13, 20, and 20, 2017!

Upcoming Events
Flame Tree Arts Festival
April 20-23, 2017
Garapan Fishing Base



www.mymarianas.com



Sakman's arrival at festival delayed



ERWIN ENCINARES

The Garapan Fishing Base started to fill with people as the 36th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival started yesterday.

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The 36th Flame Tree Arts Festival kicked off yesterday at the Garapan Fishing Base sans the much-anticipated arrival of the Sakman traditional navigators, who were delayed on their voyage from Guam via Rota.

Because of the unexpected weather and headwinds, the welcoming ceremony greeting master traditional navigators Tony Pailug and Sesario Sewralur, along with other crewmembers from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs canoe and navigation program and Guam's non-profit organization, Traditions Affirming our Seafaring Ancestry, or TASA, was moved to today. Pailug and Sewralur arrived late last night.

Pailug and Sewralur's voyage is the first for a Chamorro canoe in the past 200 years and sailed from Guam at 8am last Sunday.

According to DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter, at about 1pm yesterday the Sakman navigators were spotted 24 miles west of Tinian.

"They were delayed but [they are] closing in. We are

going to talk to the crew tonight and figure out what time is best for them," said Hunter referring to the welcoming ceremony.

In spite of the delay and the fact that the festival was held at the Garapan Fishing Base, the turnout for the Day 1 of the 36th Flame Tree Arts Festival, according to Hunter, was a success nonetheless.

"The grounds look beautiful; I like that it is close together, [making it] easier for people to walk in. It is not really stretched out as it usually is; I like the look of it—it's different," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hunter said the Flame Tree Arts Festival has been moved around various years to "test out sites."

"We want to see how [the festival] works out in regards to parking and its visitors. We believe that the festival being in this area will attract a lot of our tourists, which the festival usually [fails to do so] because of location."

The 36th Annual Flame Tree

Arts Festival started yesterday and would conclude this Sunday. The festival hosts various new attractions such as the audio-visual showcase—a segment of the festival that would feature films made by local artists from the high schools around Saipan, including Marianas High School and Mount Carmel School.

Indigenous storytellers would be presenting in the festival as well, with stories about the indigenous Chamolinian culture. There are 55 booths of which 35 showcase local artists and their works, while the remaining are booths that sell food.

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CBP: Giving birth not grounds for inadmissibility

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The U.S. Customs and Border Patrol said pregnant women coming to the United States—mainland, Hawaii, or any territory—just to give birth is not a ground for inadmissibility since there are no U.S. immigration laws that prohibits such practice.

“Coming to the U.S. in order to give birth does not, in and of itself, render an individual inadmissible,” said CBP program manager and public affairs liaison Frank Falcon, in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Falcon said there are no specific laws or regulations that prohibit pregnant foreign nationals to enter the U.S. “As with any applicant for admission, the traveler must demonstrate he/she is a U.S. citizen.”

“Or, if a foreign national, has overcome all grounds of inadmissibility. There is no

inadmissibility ground within the U.S. immigration law that prohibits the birth of a child in the U.S.,” added Falcon.

He said determining the admissibility of a traveler is based on inspections conducted by a CBP officer and individuals who are applying as temporary visitors must overcome all grounds of inadmissibility.

“As with any traveler, CBP will examine whether or not the traveler is admissible. The intent to enter the U.S. must be consistent with the visa/entry documents presented for entry,” said Falcon.

“Including the requirement that the traveler not [to] abandon foreign residence, has no intent to return, will be able to maintain status while in the U.S. and be able to provide for all attendant costs while in the U.S. (including medical and personal costs) and for return.”

Foreign nationals can also

get medical care and other treatment provided that they can pay their own bills. “Medical care is allowable activity within the temporary visitor visa (B1/B2) category, provided the traveler has the means to pay for the associated medical costs.”

“To the extent that an individual is entering with the intent to remain beyond the time period allotted by her visa or to have her childbirth costs paid for by public dollars, this would render an applicant inadmissible.”

Latest statistics

A total of 715 babies were born to foreign parents based on data, from the period of January 2015 to September 2016, obtained by *Saipan Tribune* from the Health and Vital Statistics Office of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Out of the 715 babies, 692 or more than 95 percent are by

Chinese women. In calendar year 2015 alone there are 379 childbirths by Chinese nationals, while there are 383 from the period of January to October 2016.

Saipan Tribune hasn’t obtained the numbers from the last two months (November

and December) of the 2016 calendar year.

There are also 15 babies born from Korean parents, five from Filipino, two Japanese, and one Russian during that 22-month period. All babies are U.S. passport holders.

There were only eight recorded child births from Chinese parents in 2009 and that

number jumped to a staggering 3,000 percent or 282 in 2012, where it jumped to close to 150 percent from the current data.

CHCC has also implemented a policy where they would not start processing the papers of the newborn baby until the parents settle all of their medical bills at the hospital.



SAKMAN ARRIVAL

JON PEREZ

Indigenous Affairs Office resident executive Roman M. Tudeela Jr., left, listens as program manager Cris Ogo speaks to the media Wednesday regarding the ceremony welcoming the Sakman Chamorro travelers from Guam at the 2017 Flame Tree Arts Festival. The welcoming ceremony yesterday was pushed to today.

TORRES

From Page 1

retaining current CUC board members, but would also touch on topics such as the direction and the “overall view and approach for CUC.”

The recent CUC blunder of the emergency procurement of a multi-million dollar diesel engine raised numerous red flags for the Legislature, even going as far as the calling of an oversight hearing by both

the Senate and House Public Transportation and Utilities committees. According to both committees, there was a possibility that the CUC board had a conflict of interest in the emergency procurement of the engine.

“I prevent any board member from sole sourcing without the proper approval. The situation that [CUC is] at; and that transparency is [paramount]. With that issue, I would be coming out on Monday making sure that all the issues

before us [are] taken into consideration before a decision is made on Monday,” Torres told the media.

What of CPUC?

The long-stagnant Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has been left in the dust with no members and no office since late 2016. With no members to run CPUC, Torres told the media that there were efforts on his end to contact qualified and willing candidates for the three-man mem-

bership to keep CUC in check, but the candidates are mostly “not willing to assist.”

“I have talked to several qualified people that are qualified but are not willing to assist or just has the wrong timing in their capacity. I am looking; I ask the Legislatures to give me some names. We continue to look for applicants and potential members,” said Torres.

Even if CPUC comes back to life, another question surrounding CPUC is their bud-

get allocation. As of today, it is understood that CPUC has yet to be assigned an amount for their budget specifically.

“We are working on that,” said Torres.

The reasoning behind the engine

Torres took this opportunity to clarify the need for the engine. According to Torres, the administration paid CUC an amount close to \$13 million to “buy at least one engine and also be transparent

with how we get our request for proposals or RFP.”

“That is the agreement that we made with the legislature to pay our back debt as well as our word to [U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter] to use local funds to assist in revitalizing our own power plant—I don’t take that lightly. Before we reach a decision, I would like to make sure that all information is accurate and correct,” assured Torres.

MCC

From Page 1

charged with only one count of harboring illegal aliens.

The indictments contain notice to forfeit to the U.S. government defendants’ property used in the commission of the offense such as any leasehold for work premises, barracks, employer-provided housing, VIP accommodations, employer-

provided tools, computers, office equipment, vehicles, boats, planes, heavy equipment, bank accounts, and cash.

According to the indictment, beginning on Aug. 1, 2016, and continuing until March 31, 2017, Zhao harbored 15 illegal aliens by shielding them from detection for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain.

The separate indictment alleges that on March 8 through

March 22, 2017, defendants Lu, Guo, and Ma harbored an illegal alien, Yuanyou Hu, by shielding him from detection and which resulted in Hu’s death.

Hu, a Chinese national, died reportedly after falling from a scaffold at the construction site of the Imperial Pacific casino and resort project last March 22.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation found out that Hu

entered the CNMI as a visa parolee/tourist and therefore was not authorized to work in the Commonwealth.

On Feb. 7 through March 22, 2017, Lu Guo, Qi, and Ma allegedly harbored six illegal aliens by shielding them from detection for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain.

MCC International is the construction contractor for Imperial Pacific. Beilida Overseas

is a subcontractor of MCC. The Garapan offices of the two companies were searched by the Federal Bureau of Investigation last March 30.

A criminal complaint charged all five defendants along with MCC electrician Pei Ruan, 28, with unlawful employment of aliens and bringing in and harboring certain aliens. Ruan is the only one not arrested and not included in the indictments.

In his affidavit in support of the criminal complaint against Zhao, FBI special agent Scott Berkland disclosed that during their search of Ruan’s office, they discovered 400 Chinese passports, including 189 passports of Chinese nationals who entered Saipan as visa parolees.

Each of the 189 passports inspected indicated the passport holder had overstayed their parole period.

HSI

From Page 1

tips from the public, reports from a company’s current or former employees, even referrals from other law enforcement agencies,” said Haley.

She added that they prioritize criminally prosecuting employers that utilize unauthorized workers as a business model, mistreat their workers, engage in human smuggling or trafficking, engage in identity and benefit fraud, those involve in money laundering activities, and those who participate in other criminal conduct.

Haley said HSI’s commitment is to protect all employ-

ment opportunities for the nation’s lawful workforce and at the same time target businesses that knowingly hired unauthorized workers.

“The agency’s worksite enforcement efforts are focused on investigating and criminally prosecuting businesses and organizations that knowingly hire unauthorized workers, frequently exploiting them, and subjecting them to substandard or dangerous working conditions,” she said.

“Such practices give unscrupulous employers a competitive edge over law-abiding businesses that play by the rules and pay prevailing wages and benefits.”

Haley, however, declined to comment if HSI had already

began investigating on the alleged hiring of unauthorized construction workers in the CNMI. “As a matter of policy, we do not confirm or deny the existence of an investigation unless or until it results in some otherwise public enforcement action.”

FBI spokesperson Michele Ernst has also declined to comment when *Saipan Tribune* asked if reports were true that some of the unauthorized workers had already left Saipan.

The report said the CNMI Department of Labor has allegedly prevented them to leave the CNMI since they have been conducting an ongoing investigation.

Ernst said the FBI has no further comment regarding the

ongoing investigation against MCC International and Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd., the contractor and subcontractor working on the Imperial Pacific Resort.

Incidents jeopardizes China parole

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the recent incidents involving Chinese tourists working at the construction project of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC would jeopardize the parole program given to Chinese nationals.

He said that tourists coming in to the CNMI should not lie to CBP officers. “I want to assure everyone that the administration does not favor any action of wrongdoing. This is

a two-pronged approach: first, don’t lie to CBP, when you come in, and if you are going to come in as tourists, then be a tourist, we welcome that.”

“And then the government is going to be blamed for them lying? These kinds of actions by both tourists that come in and later end up working, and companies that do not take care of them humanitarian wise are jeopardizing our ability to continue with the China parole program.”

He said that he is fully aware of the protests and have been continuously updated on the current situation. “Right after this, we’re going to have a different approach to any business licensee coming in as a workforce or agents. To all of them.”

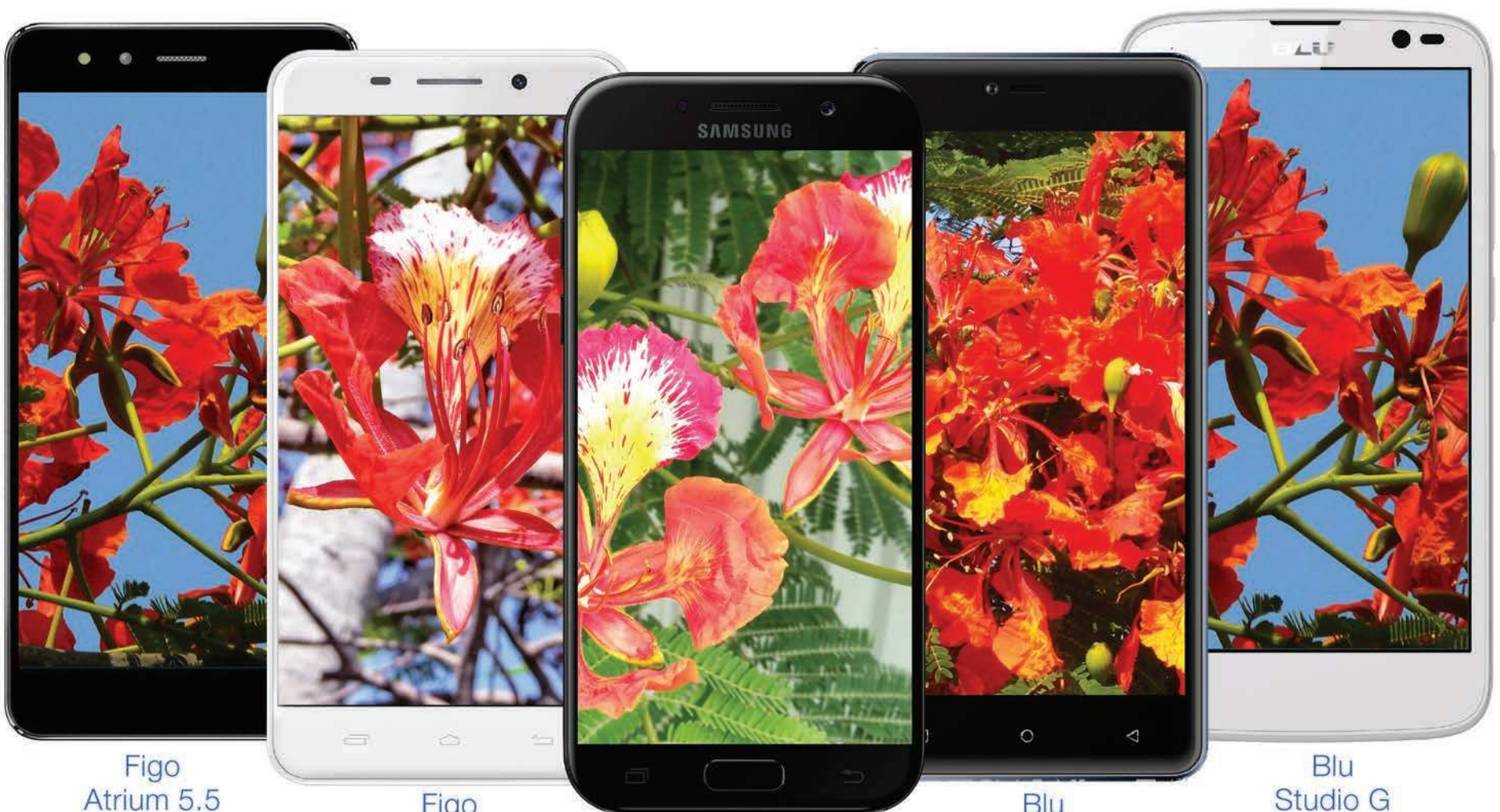
“I’m aware of the protests and I reached to IPI about it. I’m also trying to get in touch with the construction company, which hired them. Unfortunately they are nowhere to be found, as of [Wednesday].”

Torres added that he has also talked to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter to see how the CNMI government can assist the displaced construction workers.

“We’re taking things into our hands to make sure they are protected and their well being also preserved. [Workers without passports and wages] is definitely a huge concern for us. For them not being treated fairly and right is not acceptable

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IN HISTORIC CEREMONY

Post office renamed after 1st postmaster, fallen heroes

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The post office located in Chalan Kanoa was dedicated to and renamed after the late Segundo Tudela Sablan and the fallen heroes of the CNMI yesterday morning.

The post office, now re-named Segundo T. Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes Post Office, was dedicated to Sablan because he was Saipan's first native postmaster and the person who estab-



Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair L.J. Castro hands a commemorative plaque to Bobby and Debbie Winkfield during the dedication of the Chalan Kanoa postal office to fallen heroes and Saipan's first native postmaster Segundo T. Sablan yesterday. The Winkfields' eldest daughter, Audrey, died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.



Jean Sablan, Segundo T. Sablan's eldest daughter, makes a speech during yesterday's dedication ceremony at the Chalan Kanoa post office.

lished the first postal service on the island of Saipan.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said the reason the post office was rightfully dedicated to Segundo Sablan was for his extraordinary dedication to the island of Saipan and its community. The post office was also dedicated to fallen heroes from the war against Vietnam to the present and for the military scouts who died watching over the island of Saipan during World War II.

Delegate Sablan said the dedication of the post office yesterday was historic. The dedication of a federal building deals with name clearing and a lot of vetting. If a federal building is to be named after a person who has passed away, U.S. Congress would need to conduct an in-depth investigation on the life of the person that the building is to be named after.

Delegate Sablan was the person who initiated the naming of the Chalan Kanoa post office. He said the process was not easy and it took time. It took a lot of vetting before former President Barack Obama passed the approval of naming the public post office after Sablan.

According to Delegate Sablan, he worked closely with the family left by Segundo

Sablan who were his two children, Jean Sablan and Ronald Sablan in digging deeper into the life of the first native postmaster.

There were about 50 people or more that attended the dedication of the post office. Some were family members of fallen heroes that were there in honor of their fallen loved ones. Most were family members of Sablan like his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Others who attended were government officials such as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, and members of the 20th Legislature.

According to Torres, the post office was dedicated to the legacy of a man who endlessly provided good deeds to the island of Saipan.

Torres also acknowledged the fact that Segundo Sablan was the first Chamorro postmaster and kept that title for 10 years. "... He set a different standard, a standard that every postmaster should follow," said Torres.

Jean, Segundo Sablan's eldest daughter, was grateful for all who attended the ceremony and she said she knew that her father would have been just as grateful for all the appreciation of the hard work he accomplished on the island of Saipan.

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Mayor's office asks for help to clean up villages

The Saipan Mayor's Office is asking island residents to keep their village environs clean and clear of debris and waste by making sure to properly dispose of their refuse and by segregating them properly.

The mayor's office conducts multiple projects in the community to beautify the island. One of these projects is going into every village to clear up government areas of weeds, grass, trash, junk cars, etc.

Saipan Mayor David Apatang has launched a slew of beautification campaigns since taking office.

So far, the load has been unbelievable for the office of the mayor, according to the office's field members.

The mayor's office is requesting that the community be responsible for the things that they dump and where or at the very least, segregate what is dumped and call the mayor's office for help regarding all the debris, tin, trash, and green waste.

Field Operations director Joann Aquino showed media members around one of the most problematic areas in the village of Chalan Kanoa, which is the road behind the

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council Kiosk Round House.

Green waste from the office and tin from abandoned homes were found to be illegally dumped right behind the office itself.

According to the project's team leader, Robert Manalo, those tending to the plants that surround the office dumped all the green waste behind the kiosk. Manalo investigated that the green waste behind the building matched the trees within the office's perimeter.

There were about five abandoned homes along the same

street. It was noticed by mayor's office field operators that each abandoned home was spotless from the inside, but had all sorts of trash surround them. According to Manalo, what looked to be the roof of the abandoned structure was just thrown in a pile beside it. This was done for all five homes.

Manalo and Aquino's hunch is that the land owners disposed the debris on the side knowing that the mayor's office would come around to clean it up. This saves money for the homeowner and helps them prepare their structures

for renovation, but it is extremely unfair for the mayor's office project operators. Heavy equipment is used to pick up all the waste and hazardous material. It is a waste of resources, time, and energy.

The mayor's office had been through that same area a month prior and cleaned up the entire area. Upon returning this month, the area was just as bad as they had seen it before.

According to Aquino and Manalo, they have called the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to come down and investigate all the trash that was found on the side of

the road so that charges can be pressed on whomever the trash belongs to.

The mayor's office is asking that the community and residents help make their job easier, or they will have to face fines imposed by BECQ.

Their job is to beautify the island through cutting the grass, picking up junk cars, and if needed, to pick up hazardous materials off of government ground. If residents need help in disposing these kinds of material, according to Aquino, the mayor's office would be more than happy to help. All they are required to do is segregate these materials themselves. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**



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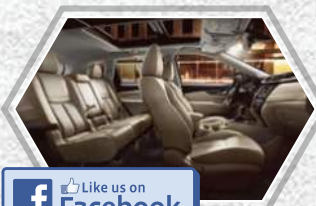
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AG: Violation continues every time an elected official receives paycheck

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward Manibusan has asserted that the statute of limitations has not run in his lawsuit that challenges the legislative salary increases because the violation continues every time an elected official receives a paycheck.

Manibusan, through counsel assistant attorney general Michael Witry, also argued that Finance Secretary Larisa Larson is the proper defendant in his lawsuit because she is the one who must be

restrained from paying illegal salaries, and that the statute of limitations does not prevent this case because the public sustains a new injury each time an illegal paycheck is issued.

In her motion to dismiss Manibusan's lawsuit, Larson argues, among other things, that the "all other actions" statute of limitations of six years bars the government's challenge to the legislative salary increases found in Public Laws 7-31 and 4-32 because they went into

effect more than six years ago.

Larson does not cite any authority in support of this position, said Witry in Manibusan's opposition to Larson's motion to dismiss.

Citing previous court rulings, Witry said it is well-established that where an unconstitutional law causes ongoing harm, the "continues enforcement of the unconstitutional statute cannot be insulated by the statute of limitations."



Manibusan

Witry said the continuing violation of doctrine provides that statute of limitations begins to run when the plaintiff is harmed by the unconstitutional statute, and resets every time a new harm occurs under that statute.

Witry said even though previous salary increases occurred more than six years ago, this lawsuit is not untimely.

He said the harm alleged by Manibusan—the payment of unconstitutional salaries—is an ongoing injury that occurs each time a payment is made.

He said in the alternative,

a new unconstitutional action occurs every two years, when a new legislature takes office and begins to receive unconstitutional pay.

Witry said payments that are currently being made are based on unconstitutional prior raises.

Witry said P.L. 19-83 calculated the new salary amounts using previous unconstitutional figures.

The Legislature, he said, is currently receiving the unconstitutional pay set forth by P.L. 7-31, and if P.L. 7-31 is struck down, it will begin to receive the unconstitutional pay set forth by P.L. 4-32.

Accordingly, Witry said, Manibusan's claims concerning this ongoing constitutional violation are not barred by the statute of limitations.

Witry said Manibusan has standing to bring this court action under the common law powers of the AG.

He said the AG as chief legal officer is "uniquely suited to challenge the legality and constitutionality of an executive or legislative action as a check on an allegedly unauthorized exercise of power."

Witry said because the AG has the express constitutional authority to prosecute violations of Commonwealth law, and because prosecutions are not limited to criminal actions, the AG has the constitutional right to bring a civil case to enjoin the government from acting unconstitutionally.

Witry said this case is ripe for adjudication because the pay raise is inevitable and the case rests purely on legal issues.

Witry said the CNMI Treasury is currently in possession of approximately \$28 million in unappropriated funds.

"This is more than enough money to fund the illegal pay increases through a supplemental appropriation, should the Legislature and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres choose to do so."

Witry said Larson is the proper defendant because she controls the expenditure of public funds.

Manibusan's lawsuit alleges that Public Law 19-83, which provided the salary increases, is unconstitutional because the Advisory Commission that recommended such increase was not validly constituted, and that such increase recommended by the Commission for the legislature exceeded the change in an "accepted price index" since the last time the salary was adjusted.

Manibusan asked the Superior Court to issue preliminary and permanent injunctions to prevent Larson from implementing the law.



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The CNMI Women's Association (CWA) and the Office of the Special Assistant to the Governor on Women's Affairs express our heartfelt gratitude to the following who have generously contributed to the success of our celebration of the 2017 CNMI Women's Month, which was held to honor our women and recognize their accomplishments and contributions to the growth and strength of our families and our great Commonwealth:



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IN BANKRUPTCY CASE FILED BY DISBARRED LAWYER, WIFE

Washington District judge favors businesswoman over Quichocho

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington at Tacoma has issued a final judgment that favored businesswoman Jung Ja Kim in the bankruptcy case filed by disbarred lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife, Frances.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Brian D. Lynch agreed with Kim's claim that certain debts arising out of a judgment Kim obtained against the Quichocho couple in the U.S. District Court for the NMI are non-dischargeable.

In the order issued on Tuesday, Lynch declared as non-dischargeable the \$2,606,661 debt of the Quichocho couple to Kim.

Not dischargeable means that even if the Quichocho couple filed for bankruptcy, they will still owe the debt to Kim.

Lynch ruled that the Quichocho couple's debts to Kim under the U.S. District Court for the NMI judgment relating to three Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) claims in the original amount of \$387,791.15 are non-dischargeable.

The judge also declared that the Quichocho couple's debts to Kim under the same District Court judgment for conversion of the Tan Dingo LLC and Latte Stone LLC in the original amount of \$2,218,870 are non-dischargeable.

Lynch, however, denied Kim's claims that certain other damages from the District Court judgment are non-dischargeable, including for breach of fiduciary duty, legal malpractice, unpaid rent and property removal, and destruction.

Kim, through counsel Robert T. Torres, filed an adversary proceeding before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington at Tacoma, where the Quichocho couple filed bankruptcy petition.

An adversary proceeding is a separate lawsuit filed within the bankruptcy case.

Kim brought the adversary proceeding to challenge the dischargeability of the Quichocho couple's debts.

Lynch conducted a trial from Feb. 13 to 17, 2017 and then placed the matter under

advisement.

Because of the bankruptcy filing, in May 2015, U.S.



Kim

District Court for the NMI Senior Judge Alex R. Munson suspended pending court's further notice the proceedings pertaining to Kim's motion for order in aid of judgment in connection

with a court judgment holding the Quichocho couple liable to pay Kim \$2.8 million in damages.

Kim's motion asked the court to summon the Quichocho couple and compel them to divulge information about their assets and those transferred during the course of and subsequent to the litigation of Kim's racketeering lawsuit against them.

In his declaration filed in April 2015, Quichocho says he is now self-employed and works as a truck driver in Tacoma, Washington and that due to his financial hardship he cannot afford to make any payments to Kim.

Quichocho said he can possibly make \$50 payments per month until his financial condition gets better.

Quichocho made the declaration in support of his and his wife Frances' joint opposition to Kim's motion for order in aid of judgment.

In Kim's motion, Torres disclosed that Quichocho transferred 10 parcels of land on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to his brother, Ignacio, supposedly for \$30,000, while his and his wife's jury trial were ongoing in federal court.

That racketeering lawsuit eventually ended up in March 2014 with the federal jury held the Quichocho couple liable to pay \$2.4 million in damages to Kim.

The court later awarded Kim \$387,791.15 for her damages, costs, and attorney's fees. The award brings to \$2,799,510.24 the total amount that the couple is liable to pay Kim.

Torres also revealed that on Aug. 27, 2014, after the entry of final judgment in Kim's case, Quichocho quitclaimed an additional two parcels of property on Rota consisting a total of 8,077 square meters to his uncle, Joaquin Q. Atalig, for just a dollar.

The Quichocho couple opposed Kim's motion. Quichocho and his counsel Michael Dotts asserted that the first transaction was for valuable

consideration (\$30,000) that the couple needed because Quichocho had essentially

been forced to close his law firm in Saipan so he could defend Kim's lawsuit.

Quichocho and Dotts said as there was no judgment or lien at the time of the first transac-

tion, and as it was for value, it would be improper for the court to now set it aside.

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USCIS will issue redesigned Green Cards, EADs

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services yesterday announced a redesign to the Permanent Resident Card (also known as a Green Card) and the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) as part of the Next Generation Secure Identification Document Project. USCIS will begin issuing the new cards on May 1, 2017.

These redesigns use enhanced graphics and fraud-

resistant security features to create cards that are highly secure and more tamper-resistant than the ones currently in use.

The new card designs demonstrate USCIS' commitment to continue taking a proactive approach against the threat of document tampering and fraud. They are also part of an ongoing effort between USCIS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Immigration

and Customs Enforcement to enhance document security and deter counterfeiting and fraud.

The redesigned cards

The new Green Cards and EADs will:

- Display the individual's photos on both sides;
- Show a unique graphic image and color palette;
- Green Cards will have an image of the Statue of Liberty and a predominately green

palette;

•EAD cards will have an image of a bald eagle and a predominately red palette;

■ Have embedded holographic images; and

■ No longer display the individual's signature.

Also, Green Cards will no longer have an optical stripe on the back.

How to tell if your card is valid

Some Green Cards and EADs

issued after May 1, 2017, may still display the existing design format as USCIS will continue using existing card stock until current supplies are depleted. Both the existing and the new Green Cards and EADs will remain valid until the expiration date shown on the card.

Certain EADs held by individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and other designated categories have been automatically extended

beyond the validity date on the card. For additional information on which EADs are covered, please visit the Temporary Protected Status and American Competitiveness in the 21st Century Act web pages on uscis.gov.

Both versions are applicable for Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, E-Verify, and Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE). Some older Green Cards do not have an expiration date. These older Green Cards without an expiration date remain valid. Individuals who have Green Cards without an expiration date may want to consider applying for a replacement card bearing an expiration date. Obtaining the replacement card will reduce the likelihood of fraud or tampering if the card is ever lost or stolen.

Eligibility for Green Cards and EADs

For more information about the Green Card application process, please visit USCIS. gov/greencard.

To request an EAD, you must file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization. Visit uscis.gov for more information about EADs. (PR)

Proposed and emergency regulations now available on the web

The CNMI Law Revision Commission now makes proposed regulations and emergency regulations easily available on its website, www.cnmilaw.org.

Proposed, emergency, and adopted regulations of all Commonwealth executive agencies are published in the Commonwealth Register. Upon receipt of the monthly Commonwealth Register, the Law Revision Commission adds the register to its website and now also links any proposed and emergency regulations published through user-friendly links on its website's homepage.

Proposed regulations are regulations made available

by executive agencies prior to their formal adoption so that the public is aware of their proposal and can have meaningful involvement in the regulations' formation and adoption. By law, agencies are required to provide the public with at least 30 days notice prior to adoption of such regulations, as well as a reasonable opportunity for all interested parties "to submit data, views, or arguments, in writing." 1 CMC § 9104(a)(1)-(2). Public comments on any proposed regulation should be directed to the Commonwealth executive agency proposing the regulations and should not be directed to the Law Revision

Commission.

Persons interested in commenting on any proposed regulation may do so by following the information and instructions in the notice published with the specific proposed regulations. Emergency regulations are regulations that the agency, with the concurrence of the Governor, determines require less than 30 days notice for the public interest or due to imminent peril to public health, safety, or welfare. Emergency regulations may be effective for no longer than 120 days. 1 CMC § 9104(b).

The Law Revision Commission does not codify emergency regulations, un-

less the regulations are proposed and later adopted by the promulgating agency. As emergency regulations are effective only during the term provided for in the emergency notice, the Law Revision Commission has provided a link on its homepage to those regulations, which will be updated monthly upon receipt of the register publishing the emergency regulations.

The Law Revision Commission is responsible for the codification, publication, and housing of all CNMI laws, judicial decisions, and regulations. The Law Revision Commission's website, www.cnmilaw.org, serves as

a free database for the public to access all of the laws generated by each of the three branches of the Commonwealth government. The Law Revision Commission's office is located within the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe. The links to pending proposed regulations and emergency regulations that are in effect are found on the Law Revision's homepage, www.cnmilaw.org, under the Executive Branch header. Questions regarding using the Law Revision's website or available products may be directed via email to cnmilaw@justice.gov.mp or by phone to 236-9820. (PR)



Safe and Healthy Programs



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What is a safety and health program?

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- Management leadership
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- A systematic approach to finding and fixing hazards



You can use OSHA's free recommended practices document and other resources to find the approach that is best for your workplace.

Download the OSHA Recommended Practices for Safety and Health Programs at www.osha.gov/shpguidelines

Why implement a safety and health program?

Each year, more than four million workers suffer from serious job-related injuries or illnesses, and more than 4,000 Americans die from work-related incidents. These incidents don't just hurt workers and their families, they hurt businesses as well. Whether at large organization, medium-sized employers, or small businesses, safety and health programs can improve businesses' safety and health performance, save money, enhance your reputation, and help you be more competitive.

Safety and health programs can help you:

- Prevent workplace injuries and illnesses
- Improve compliance with laws and regulations
- Reduce costs, including significant reductions in workers' compensation premiums
- Engage workers
- Enhance your social responsibility goals
- Increase productivity and enhance overall business operations

Effective January 1, 2015, all employers under the jurisdiction of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration will be required to report all work-related fatalities within eight hours and all in-patient hospitalizations, amputations and losses of an eye within 24 hours of finding out about the incident.

How do I get started?

Getting started is easy and you can do it yourself. OSHA has recently updated its 1989 Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines to reflect changes in the economy, workplaces and evolving safety and health issues. The updated document, Recommended Practices for Safety and Health Programs, has been well received by a wide variety of stakeholders and is designed to be used in a small and medium-sized business settings.

The recommended practices present a step-by-step approach for implementing a safety and health program, built around seven core elements that make up a successful program. OSHA also provides resources to help small- and medium-sized businesses implement a safety and health program.



Where can I find help?

OSHA recognizes that regulations alone are not enough to change the safety culture in America, but a safety and health program is a way to start the journey to a safer workplace. Today's responsible business owner are actively managing safety in the workplace – why not get started now? Visit www.osha.gov/shcampaign.

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This ad is paid for by the U.S. DOL, OSHA Administration.

NMC CREES to host Agricultural Field Day on Tuesday

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service is inviting farmers and interested community members to its Agricultural Field Day which will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

The Field Day will provide attendees with an opportunity to observe a variety of crops that have been cultivated at the NMC CREES Center for Agriculture in As Perdido. These crops include tomato, pepper, lettuce, corn, melon, okra, cucumber, and squash varieties.

Additionally, the Field Day will feature brief discussions and instructional guidance on pest management, fertilizer application and management, high tunnel productions, drip irrigation, and much more.

The aim of the of Field Day is to enable farmers and anyone interested in growing and cultivating crops to benefit from the field research and science that NMC CREES researchers and extension agents will be sharing.

Those interested in attending the Field Day can attend two separate sessions on April 25, 2017. The first session will be from 9am to 11am and the second session will be from 1pm to 3pm.

For more information, please contact the NMC CREES office by calling 237-6840 or contact Solly Takai Nakamura at 789-1017 or Arnold Route at 788-7724. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service is inviting farmers and interested community members to its Field Day event to learn about pest management, fertilizer application, drip irrigation, and high tunnel productions. The Field Day will be on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.



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Being part of the Corporate Social Responsibility of Imperial Pacific International is a wonderful feeling for its team members who are regularly given the opportunity to engage in cultural activities such as weaving. In this photo, weaving is one of those traditional crafts that Imperial Pacific's CSR team incorporates with all of its events.

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Saipan Lagoon Use Management Plan Forum



April 25, 2017
@ Fiesta Resort Hotel



What can be done to ensure sustainability of the Lagoon's resources over the coming decades? What are the current conflicts among users, and how can we manage them equitably? How are demands on the Lagoon going to change in the coming years? DCRM is updating the Saipan Lagoon Use Management Plan (SLUMP). Come to the Forum to share your thoughts and suggestions.

Public meeting to be held on April 25, 5:00pm-7:00pm
at the Azucena Room of Fiesta Resort.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Demand Trump tax returns before legislating tax

U.S. taxpayers have paid their president more than \$35,000 so the Secret Service can use golf carts at one of his courses near his Mar-a-Lago resort. Donald Trump has been there on seven of the 13 weekends he's been in office, and The Washington Post calculated that as of Monday, he had spent one of every five minutes there since his inauguration. Each time, he's both president and cheerleader in chief for his brand. He attends events with resort members, who now pay higher fees. Every photo op is more marketing for the property. The Government Accountability Office is analyzing the costs of those Mar-a-Lago visits, like security, food and lodging.

If only we knew that much about Trump's other financial connections. But he'd have to release his tax returns, and he has refused.

No other president has held such a complicated web of businesses, and no other president in modern history has withheld his tax returns. The international scope of Trump's holdings creates tremendous potential conflicts of interest. We know, for instance, that the state-owned Bank of China has been a large lender to Trump's businesses. Does he owe China something in return? In addition, Trump's companies have loans and mortgages with Deutsche Bank AG, and that the U.S. Justice Department recently closed one investigation into the bank, but we don't know how Trump's dealings with the bank will affect other investigations and regulations. We don't know much about Trump's personal business ties to Russia. And we can't evaluate how his deals will influence his foreign policy and other critical decisions. Trump's tax returns won't answer every question, but they would disclose key details regarding his investments, partnerships and business arms, whether he has foreign bank accounts and trusts, and whether he pays taxes to foreign governments. And we'd know how his sweeping tax reform ideas would benefit him and his companies.

During the campaign, Trump said he'd release his tax returns after they were audited, though no law prevents their release. On Sunday, he implied the demand for the returns should have ended when he won the election. On Monday, his press secretary was asked whether Trump would ever release them. "We'll have to get back to you on that," he said.

The nation waits. Congress must demand that Trump release the returns before it passes new tax laws.

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Putting words to work

Tourism and retailing are two pillars of the Commonwealth economy. Both industries are highly dependent on advertising. My father was an ad man. He taught me to keep a file of good ads that I encountered so I'd have examples to study. When other kids were collecting stamps I was collecting advertising copy.

I have one such example at hand right now. It appeared in my post office box unbidden. It is a catalog of pipes and tobacco products.

I'm not looking to buy what this catalog is selling. Not now, anyway. But this doesn't diminish the quality of its pitch or the accuracy of its targeting. On the latter note I reckon that my friends and I are squarely within the demographic profile of the target market. We grew up with pipe smoke wafting from our father's offices and studies. It's reasonable to expect that some of us may continue that tradition.

For all the talk of electronic ads these days, the old-fashioned paper catalog is still in evidence.

And, in this case, it's a good mesh with the products being sold, since the catalog emphasizes the traditional, old-time nature of pipes and tobacco.

Come to think of it, the appeal might extend beyond the mature set hoping to emulate Grandpa's ways. From what I've seen with craft breweries, wristwatches, and certain lines of clothing, some of the younger folks seem interested in premium products that have an old-school feel. Maybe that's a counterpoint to all the glossy high-tech stuff they're usually buying.

Anyway, I don't want to expend much breath trying to describe this pipe and tobacco catalog. The studio photography of the products is solid. Each product is described with a straightforward sales pitch. That's the whole thing. It keeps its focus on the products that it's selling, and it doesn't slide into a self-reverential trap of sounding too fancy or emotive.

Catalogs fall into an advertising category called "direct response." The advertising guru David Ogilvy was a devoted fan of this genre's writing. That's because it evolved with a well-honed sense of what works and what doesn't work.

Ogilvy wrote: "The curious thing is that the techniques which work best in 'direct' advertisements are seldom used in ordinary

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
All views expressed by the author are his/
her own and do not necessarily reflect the
opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



advertising—like giving factual information about the product." He went on to say, "Every copywriter should start his or her career by spending two years in direct response."

One remarkable thing about commerce is that despite the costs of producing and mailing catalogs the things are everywhere. They fill up my mail box, which I don't like any more than anyone else does, but I don't lose sight of the fact that the good ones are worth study and archival. It's a free education. The education can be applied to any medium of advertising; that's what Ogilvy certainly saw.

I get a really wide variety of catalogs. The pipe and tobacco catalog has got me marked as a guy who might spend, say, \$50 or \$80 on a briar pipe and then, say, \$30 for some tobacco. Were I a smoker then, yeah, I guess I'd buy that stuff.

Other catalogs, however, are pretty far off the mark.

For example, what marketing algorithm decided that I'm destined to buy avocado-green double-knit polyester trousers? Do they know something that I don't know?

On the other hand, some haberdasher's catalog features a tweed jacket that costs more than a decent used car. I have been marked as a man of means and of taste. That's a nice thought. Let's hold onto it as long as we can.

Well, so much for my foray into the catalog world. If we want to put words to work, this realm can offer instructive examples. And since the examples are free, appearing magically in the mail, you can save your money and buy something that suits you. On that note I do have to mention one thing: You'd look great in avocado.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

CUC: Messy utility agency

The lack of institutional history of efforts taken years ago to strengthen the utility agency has resulted in déjà vu or repeat of the same errors, time and again.

More than a decade ago, the U.S. Office of Territorial Affairs recommended placing a requirement for the CEO of CUC. Legislators saw its importance and approved it into law. It also slammed CUC's ugly chapter on key people who've turned aggrandizement into an art.

The fix set the path for the utility agency to be financially self-sustaining after five years.

But politicians aren't sure what to make of it. There was issued an "emergency" by the Fitial Administration to tinker with the operations of CUC.

The insatiable appetite by politicians to turn it into simple employment agency prevailed. Thus more incompetent people were hired to the delight of airheads. In the process, strengthening the agency took tertiary consideration.

Interesting Raffy's request to Interior to forego the CEO qualification requirement listed under the consent decree. He literally ensured incompetency of the utility agency at ratepayers' expense.

In the process, ratepayers would be saddled with quadruple taxation to meet CUC's bloated payroll.

Thus, the OPA report simply failed to insert institutional information all must know so the utility agency is strengthened and not left at the mercy of the "unthinking few." Political interference is the seed of corruption and ratepayers must say their piece now to ensure the NMI remains a government of laws.

Saluting 68AndMe: Waking up to the break of dawn yesterday morning, I knew the number 68 has descended on this son of Metformin. It was time for some reflection of a long journey meeting the number representing pomp and circumstance 49 years ago.

I woke up humming the melodic and patriotic song, "America The Beautiful." It was a song mom hums on long dark nights when wind driven rain knocks off power island-wide.

Vision: I was attached to the melody and kept it in memory through the years. I think it is the visionary aspect of it where I find hope and confidence in what lies ahead. It says in part, "O

beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years." It speaks of vision of our country founded on an idea.

In brief, I'm ever grateful for my freedom. I can't imagine waking up to huge brown sand with exhausted, dehydrated and hungry kids in a war torn country. Imagine staring hopelessness that is simultaneously a walk-in living cemetery. It's life in the Middle East and North Korea. It's peaceful here and grateful for all my blessings.

Brotherhood: The other stanza says "...and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea." It encourages the fostering of harmony in the rainbow of colors and people to make life better than it was yesterday. There's that opportunity for one and all. It's about patriotism!

It has been a rewarding journey and have enjoyed meeting with you on this corner of the paper. I may have stepped on your gangrened toes but it's all about the truth, nothing less. I have donned the role as guardian of the public conscience from the tyranny of the unscrupulous few. Not ready to embrace willful blindness. It's 68AndMe!

■ ■ ■

Need for think tanks

Magoo was all ears as we discussed the need for think tanks or a research and development center in the NMI. He was excited and wanted an explanation of their benefits forthwith.

A policy research institute or research and development center is needed in the islands to ensure issues are translated into policy with depth and accuracy.

"Think tanks subscribe to, and the best adhere to, the intellectual virtues of reasoned inquiry and debate, openness to diverse views, and high standards of evidence, argument, and civility.

"Walk in the door, ask about global warming or tax reform or Taiwan, and you will get a polished, highly-informed position—but one intended to advance discussion, not shut it down.

Here at home, the usual habit of taking wild swings whimsically must slowly fade into the swampland of ignorance and parked there permanently.

Researched materials give policymakers, planners and busi-

will get you right on!

I can honestly say, the future looks bright for the CNMI under Governor Torres' leadership and the American Dream is alive and well in the CNMI. "We the People" can best serve our government and help ourselves by helping the governor instead of throwing rocks that don't serve any purpose but to cause delays from frivolous distractions as a flying rock never stopped much of anything, just makes things slow down. While there is nothing wrong with genuine complaints about our government there are those who just throw rocks for the sake of throwing rocks from their displeasure of political losses to the incumbents—sore losers playing dirty politics after the election. But, I can't finish this without recognizing Mrs. Torres for her great job in revitalizing the role of the first lady and the governor for doing a great job. I hope he will continue to keep-hope-alive for the American Dream to be a reality for everyone living in our Commonwealth so we can be great too!

Ambrose M. Bennett

Retired educator

Nakedness is a true sensation

The author of the letter to the editor writing about "Just the Facts" punches below the belt once more without checking thought processes.

First of all, I have never taken a PRAXIS test. Therefore, I could neither pass nor fail it. I have no inclination over such test of knowledge and rite of passage to the teaching profession. On this count, his facts are troubling and taking a course if it's slander.

Simple fact about language and conversation drills attention over mixing or combining observation and evaluation involved in the communication exchanges in that people are apt to hear criticism. When a perfect storm lingers that fills the arena of contradiction, the opposing view would be equally critical and acceptable. To free a thought without checking its clarity and authenticity would be dressing the writer or speaker with see through silk garment. And, when it happens, nakedness is a true sensation.

The exchanges of opposing views are as normal as calling water H₂O. Even accepting that the impurities present in the water would

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



nessmen the depth to understand issues before policies are made to enhance life in the islands. Shortsightedness ought to be a thing of the past. The shallowness of policies today is a tale of the dire need for these services.

Magoo wanted simple examples of the benefits of the work of one or the other. Said he, "Explain it to me so I understand why we need research materials for policies and all in the islands".

"Let's take salaries that have remained the same for over 20 years," offered Lia. "We need to study what forced wages and salaries to remain stagnant this long. Was it the exit of investments? What were the underlying causes of such phenomena? Why did we toy around with a superbly mature economy like Japan? Has the NMI recovered the loss of \$12 billion worth of investment losses?"

Magoo listened intently then asked: "Then what has the elected officials here done to revive investments beyond 'temperamental' ones we never planned for?"

Lia chuckled and said, "The utility agency's finances are in shambles not to mention inadequate funds for PSS and CHC. Must show responsibility and accountability managing scare resources to strengthen our spouts about self-government."

Said Magoo, "And we are cursed with a very protracted system of government in what's known as democracy!" Indeed, it's slow machinery especially if we leave things with the usual attitude, "Leave It To Beaver". I was yawning by the time the discussion came to an inconclusive ending. In agreement though that one of the two institutions is a must in policymaking.

render it as part of the liquid and we still called it water (H₂O). This is what the poly-scientist is saying that for as long as the clear liquid appears as water, its impurities taking the form of all minerals, silts, and matters entered into the liquid form such as metals do not matter. Well, water is two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. When the impurities level mixes in the liquid, it is no longer water. Should we fault one that says water is H₂O only, and when mixes of other substances included that it is no longer water? Let's called water mixed with impurities as "not water", and maybe just maybe call it "impure water." This is the same as our CEO of CUC while saying that every drop of liquid that comes out of every faucets in piped water is water, but, hesitating at the same time to drink the water product produce by CUC. The view of the CEO is the same as the poly-scientist in that the so-called water by CUC could hurt his health and safety. Hence, the hesitation and assumed knowledge over what is real water. Our poly-scientist should know what real conversation is in communication exchanges.

Semanticist Wendel Johnson suggests that we create many problems for ourselves by using static language to express or capture our thought of reality in a very random world order. He said, "Our language is an imperfect instrument created by ancient and ignorant men. It is an animistic language that invites us to talk about stability and constants, about similarities and normal and kinds, about magical transformation, quick cures, simple problems, and final solutions. Yet the world we try to symbolize with this language is a world of process, change, differences, dimensions, functions, relationships, growths, interactions, developing, learning, coping, complexity. And the mismatch of our ever-changing world and our relatively static language forms is part of our problem." If your author of "Just the Facts" letter thinks he is the top of the food chain on intelligence and dogmatic thoughts and perfected premises, he must be welled in a wedge of confusion over human conversation. Thus, the sound of words comes from the primitive source of stumping, knocking, tapping, clapping, pounding, tiptoeing, scratching, pumping, sounds of bird cries and living critters, sound of running water. If you see these points, perhaps we can have a perfect conversation. The poly-scientist should not have any inconsequential connection about the source of language. People are disturbed not by things, but by the view they take of them (Epictetus).

Francisco R. Agulto

Kanat Tabla

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Be part of the solution'

I was very glad to hear the governor reiterate what I have been saying to my critics which was "stop throwing rocks from the boonies and the sidelines and become part of the solution."

He even made an appeal for everyone with a good idea to present it to his office, which is a clear indicator of his intent to work with anyone regardless of their party affiliation in the best interest of the CNMI—a mark of a true leader. I can remember the best principal I ever worked under, Juan L. Babauta, when we opened Kagman High under his leadership. In our first meeting he said to us "you guys teach and I will principal and if you have any concerns please bring them to me but don't come crying and complaining to me without a solution to your concerns." I shared this because the governor was right about the rock throwing which I even used to be guilty of when I first started writing but I have learned it is far more productive to get on the team and be part of the solution even if you have to be a "free-agent walk-on" like I'm trying to be with legalization and some other issues. We also have an excellent "non-political" AG for legal and corruption concerns in government and "Flying Rock Letters" will never fix anything because I know from the experience of ugly disrespectful and frivolous flying rocks thrown at me and I'm still standing tall and strong so think about it the next time you want to throw a rock at the administration because rock throwing talk is cheap and it's definitely not a solution.

The governor really covered a lot of ground in his speech that I can't cover in this short opinion letter but one thing for true that ran like a thread throughout the entire address was the governor's ability to "look beyond the horizon" on issues and see the direction that we should be headed on many issues. He is giving us a real chance to be one people headed in one direction to find real prosperity! His address was well thought out and extremely informative demonstrating genuine leadership on where the CNMI came from too where we are now and where he plans to take us. The governor is clearly taking us on a quest for prosperity in every way of life and business in the CNMI and we should all be thankful and supportive of his leadership. He also made it clear that "if you are manipulating our laws and conducting criminal activity" that we (the government and DPS)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Partly cloudy skies early will give way to occasional showers later during the night.

▲ 86° ▼ 78°

SATURDAY

Scattered thunderstorms.

▲ 86° ▼ 78°

SUNDAY

Scattered thunderstorms in the morning, then mainly cloudy during the afternoon.

▲ 86° ▼ 77°

MONDAY

Variably cloudy with scattered thunderstorms.

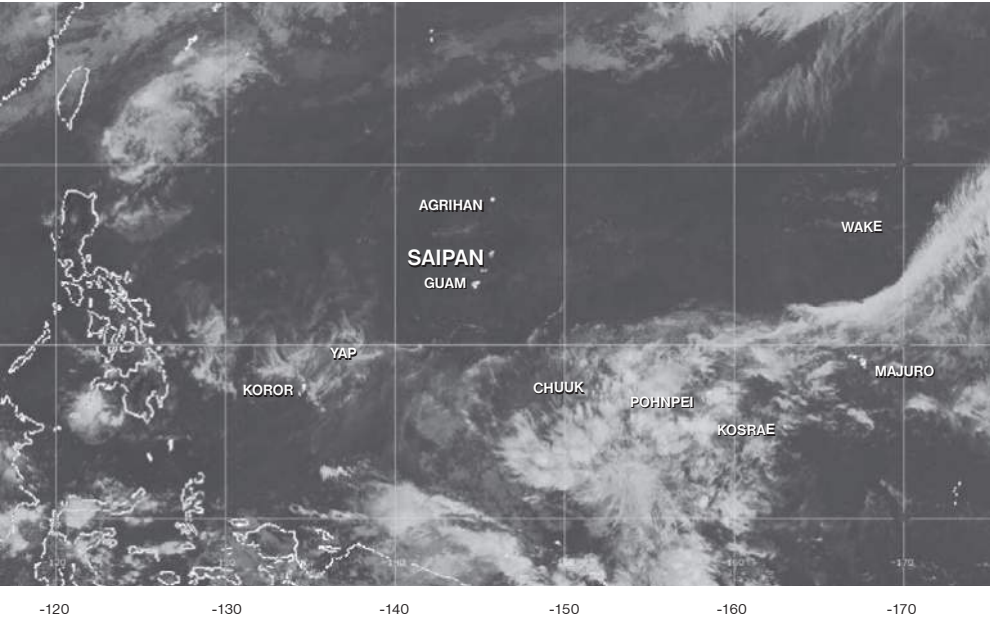
▲ 85° ▼ 78°

TUESDAY

Partly cloudy in the morning followed by scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon.

▲ 86° ▼ 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:29 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Dry weather looks likely to continue through at least Sunday morning in both the ECMWF and the GFS. GFS hints it could even continue into Monday morning. Went ahead and delayed the mostly cloudy into Monday. For now, damped out the circulation that the GFS has been bringing into the Marianas. Just entered gentle to moderate trades for the entire forecast period. This was inspired by the ECMWF and the Canadian, with a dash of climatology tossed in. It is still pretty early in the year for circulations to wander that far north. A month or two from now, that could be quite a bit more likely.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	89 79 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	86 71 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84 79 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83 79 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	66 55 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72 50 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	81 75 °F
Honolulu	Cloudy	83 71 °F
London	Cloudy	60 46 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	79 57 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95 80 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	78 58 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80 70 °F
New York	Cloudy	65 57 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	67 55 °F
Paris	Mostly Sunny	58 34 °F
Pusan	Cloudy	64 48 °F
Rome	Sunny	61 42 °F
Salem	Partly Cloudy	57 40 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	64 51 °F
Seoul	Rain	59 43 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	67 52 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	83 64 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:09 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.66
8:56 AM	LOW TIDE		1.14
1:20 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.44
8:43 PM	LOW TIDE		0.23

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:46 AM	1:37 PM	-
Saturday	2:32 AM	2:30 PM	-
Sunday	3:17 AM	3:25 PM	-
Monday	4:02 AM	4:22 PM	-
Tuesday	4:49 AM	5:20 PM	-

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING

For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
				UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily			
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
			5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Traditional healing featured on ‘Your Humanities Half-Hour’

Haya Foundation president Zita Pangelinan will be the featured guest on this Sunday’s “Your Humanities Half-Hour” radio program.

The Haya Foundation was established on Guam more than a decade ago to promote, preserve, and perpetuate traditional healing practices which utilizes plant-based medicines administered by skilled practitioners.

Pangelinan will discuss the state of traditional healing on Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, and the Foundation’s ongoing activities to keep this valuable cultural practice alive and well throughout the archipelago.

Last year, University of Guam professor Dr. Tricia A. Lizama produced a documentary film entitled “Amot para I Hinemlo’ta” which will be screened during the upcoming Flame Tree Festival.

This film, supported by a grant from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, features interviews with traditional healers on Guam, Rota, and Saipan.

Pangelinan will also discuss a planned second phase of work which will formally record testimonials of individuals who have been treated by traditional healers.

“Your Humanities Half-Hour,” which airs each Sunday from 2pm to 2:30pm on Power 99, is hosted by Catherine Perry Harris. Be sure to tune in! (PR)

Lions Club Health Fair on April 30

The public is invited to the Lions Clubs International District 204 Guam CNMI Region II Annual Health Fair on April 30, 2017, from 8am to 12pm at the Mt. Carmel Dai-Dai Social Hall. The Health Fair will offer free blood pressure, sugar/glucose testing, hearing test, vision check, free reading glasses, and cancer and general health awareness information that will improve and maintain a healthy life. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Lions Clubs International we invite you to join us as we participate in continued community services throughout the world. To find out more, contact your local Lions Club Zone chair at 285-1021. (PR)

Navy to conduct training at former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course, Agat Bay

ASAN, Guam—The Navy will conduct parachute operation training at the former Adm. Chester Nimitz Golf Course and Agat Bay during the following dates and times:

- April 21 from 6am to 1pm at the former Adm. Chester Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada
- April 23 from 9am to 6:30pm in Agat Bay

These trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings.

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and

times indicated.

Agat Bay is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 23’N/144° 35’E.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)

ARE YOU AT RISK FOR TYPE 2 DIABETES?



DIABETES RISK TEST

1

How old are you?

Less than 40 years (0 points)
40—49 years (1 point)
50—59 years (2 points)
60 years or older (3 points)

Write your score in the box.

2

Are you a man or a woman?

Man (1 point) Woman (0 points)

3

If you are a woman, have you ever been diagnosed with gestational diabetes?

Yes (1 point) No (0 points)

4

Do you have a mother, father, sister, or brother with diabetes?

Yes (1 point) No (0 points)

5

Have you ever been diagnosed with high blood pressure?

Yes (1 point) No (0 points)

6

Are you physically active?

Yes (0 points) No (1 point)

7

What is your weight status?
(see chart at right)

Height	Weight (lbs.)		
4' 10"	119-142	143-190	191+
4' 11"	124-147	148-197	198+
5' 0"	128-152	153-203	204+
5' 1"	132-157	158-210	211+
5' 2"	136-163	164-217	218+
5' 3"	141-168	169-224	225+
5' 4"	145-173	174-231	232+
5' 5"	150-179	180-239	240+
5' 6"	155-185	186-246	247+
5' 7"	159-190	191-254	255+
5' 8"	164-196	197-261	262+
5' 9"	169-202	203-269	270+
5' 10"	174-208	209-277	278+
5' 11"	179-214	215-285	286+
6' 0"	184-220	221-293	294+
6' 1"	189-226	227-301	302+
6' 2"	194-232	233-310	311+
6' 3"	200-239	240-318	319+
6' 4"	205-245	246-327	328+
	(1 Point)	(2 Points)	(3 Points)

You weigh less than the amount in the left column (0 points)

If you scored 5 or higher:
You are at increased risk for having type 2 diabetes. However, only your doctor can tell for sure if you do have type 2 diabetes or prediabetes (a condition that precedes type 2 diabetes in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal). Talk to your doctor to see if additional testing is needed.

Type 2 diabetes is more common in African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, American Indians, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Higher body weights increase diabetes risk for everyone. Asian Americans are at increased diabetes risk at lower body weights than the rest of the general public (about 15 pounds lower).

Add up your score.

Adapted from Bang et al.,
Ann Intern Med
151:775-783, 2009.
Original algorithm
was validated without
gestational diabetes
as part of the
model.

LOWER YOUR RISK

The good news is that you can manage your risk for type 2 diabetes. Small steps make a big difference and can help you live a longer, healthier life. If you are at high risk, your first step is to see your doctor to see if additional testing is needed.

Visit diabetes.org or call 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383) for information, tips on getting started, and ideas for simple, small steps you can take to help lower your risk.

For more information, visit us at diabetes.org/alert or call 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383)



CONGRATULATIONS!



\$10,000 Winner!

Luneta Oracion Gaso receives the \$10,000 check from Northern Marianas Sports Association (NMSA) President Michael White.

Two lucky winners in one day

Susupe resident Luneta Gaso turned a \$2 change to a whopping \$10,000. Magic? No. Call it beginner's luck. Gaso bought a Northern Marianas Sports Association scratch lottery card for the first time and won not once, but twice. "I went to the store to purchase a toothpaste and used my change to buy a ticket. I've never bought a scratch card before and I was just curious so I handed back my change to the store owner and asked for the \$2 card," Gaso said. She got the "Pay Day" card and won \$5, which she decided to use to buy two more tickets. Gaso scratched the first two rows in the first column of the "Money Bag" and the \$10,000 figures appeared. She got excited, but that turned into dismay when two different numbers appeared in the last two rows and the first two of the second column. Then down to the second to the last number on her card...she hit the jackpot. "For a while, I could not believe I won. I saw a lot of zeroes and I was thinking I only won \$1,000. I don't have a good vision and wear glasses so thought I misread the numbers. I decided to hand my ticket to the store owner to find out how much I won. She told me I won the \$10,000," said Gaso, who could not hide her excitement when she received her \$10,000 check from NMSA president Michael White last Wednesday, thanking the latter many times. The prize was sort of an advanced gift to Gaso, who will be celebrating her birthday on April 25. She will use portions of her winnings to settle her loans and for her vacation to the Philippines later this year. "I haven't seen my mother in 12 years and she's not getting any younger—she's turning 80 this August—so I am really happy that I will be able to visit her and spend some time with her," a teary-eyed Gaso said. Gaso purchased the winning ticket last Tuesday at JL Store, which received \$1,000 bonus from NMSA for selling the grand prize card. A few hours after Gaso hit the jackpot, NMSA received a call from New Grand Market about another lucky winner—Georgia Ann Attao. Attao won \$5,000 from the scratch cards her boyfriend brought home. "When he came home, he said, I bought you two tickets," said Attao. "I scratched the first ticket (10X

The Cash) and started on the second column instead of the first one and that's it, I got the \$5,000," the mother of three said. The first two rows of the second column of the cards showed \$5,000 and Attao got the third on the last row. "I called my sister and told her I won \$5,000. She didn't believe me. Now she has to," said Attao, who also received her check from NMSA last Wednesday. She will use part of her winnings to buy her three children gifts, while she will save the rest. "My son has been begging me to buy him X-Box. He will get it and my two other children will also receive special gifts," she said. **More winning tickets** NMSA is encouraging supporters of the lottery card to keep buying tickets because more prizes can still be won. "We would like to congratulate all the lucky winners. NMSA is happy for them and thank them for supporting our lottery. Continue to buy tickets because there are still more prizes out there," White said. "You do not only get to win prizes, you are also helping our athletes and NMSA's programs. Your money is going to be put in good use," he added. NMSA is providing financial assistance to CNMI athletes competing in off-island tournaments through its earnings from the card lottery. Portions of the earnings are also used for other expenses of NMSA, which is in charge of taking care of the Oleai Sports Complex and coordinates with various sports federations in holding local competitions.




For only \$2 you can win up to \$10,000! Get your tickets now! GOOD LUCK TO ALL!!!

\$5,000 Winner!

Georgia Ann C. Attao receives the \$5,000 check from Northern Marianas Sports Association (NMSA) President Michael White.






Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447 / 234-7670 • Fax: 234-9021

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp



EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

Lot No.:	Location	Minimum Bid
011 G 459	800 sq. meters Chopak Dr. Kagman	\$37,708.36
002 G 286	929 sq. meters Bilembines Str. Kagman	\$31,767.36
011 G 1322	929 sq. meters Kakaguetes Ave. Kagman	\$49,098.68


The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m.on Monday, April 24, 2017 subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid.** The minimum acceptable bid for each property is as indicated above.
- Reserve.** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for these properties listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021.
- Deposit Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC. Also, failure to deposit the 10% of the purchase price on the same day will subject NMHC to award the winning bid to the next highest bidder. All auction terms and rules must apply to the next highest bidder.
- Change of Terms.** NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 23rd day of March, 2017

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-2375
Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

THE MONITORING SERVICES FOR THE POST CLOSURE OF THE

PUERTO RICO DUMPSITE IN GARAPAN, SAIPAN

RFP17-GOV-112

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Capital Improvement Office (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to provide **Labor, Material and Equipment for the MONITORING SERVICES of the Post Closure Maintenance of the Puerto Rico Dumpsite** in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package is available at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill. Questions regarding the Request for Proposals shall be addressed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager, CIP Office, at esb.cip@gmail.com or facsimile (670) 664-2272 no later than 4:00 p.m., ChST, April 20, 2017.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience on similar projects	30%
2. Past Performance with CNMI Projects	30%
3. Cost	40%

Performance time for completion of this project will be a two year contract with an option to renew for six months upon issuance of notice to proceed. Contractors will be assessed \$200/day for any delays in the monitoring and reporting to BECQ and USEPA based on the Post Closure Maintenance Plan prepared by GHD Inc., May 2014.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFP17-GOV-112 "To provide Labor, Materials and Equipment for the MONITORING SERVICES OF THE POST CLOSURE MAINTENANCE OF PUERTO RICO DUMPSITE" in Garapan, Saipan. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 26, 2017. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, April 26, 2017 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 26, 2017 and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than May 5, 2017. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

MCS will keep current tuition rates for upcoming school year

In preparations for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year, Mount Carmel School's leadership recently agreed to hold tuition and fees at their current rates.

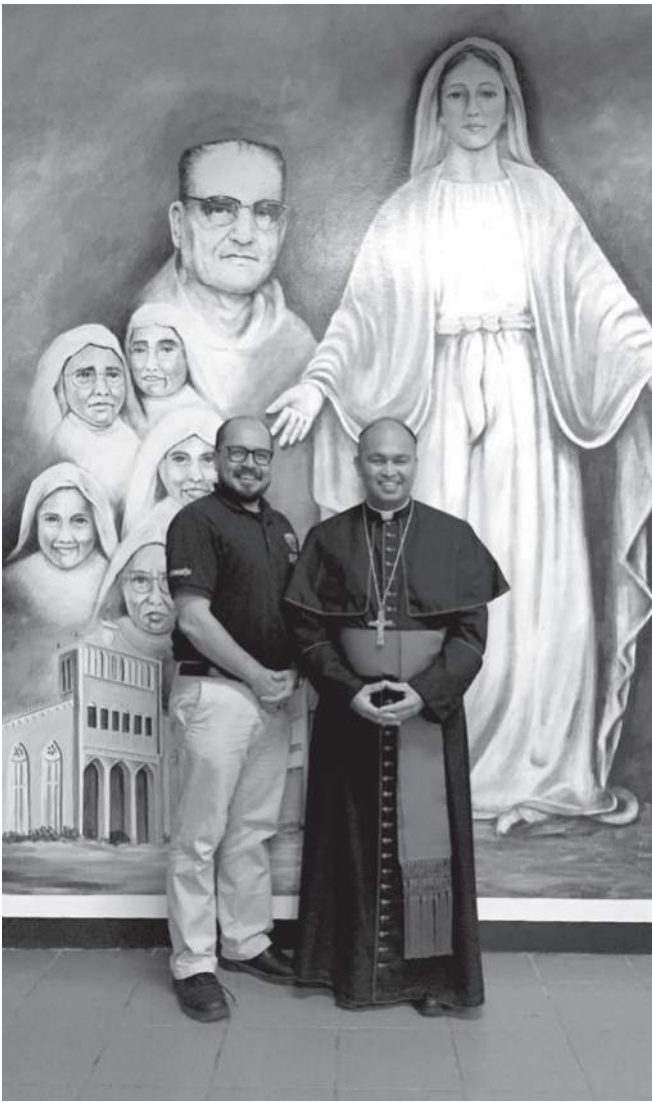
After discussing the issue with Bishop Ryan Jimenez, who serves as the corporate sole of the school, and the school's Board of Directors, school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero shared that the school wanted to continue helping parents afford a quality Catholic education.

He said, "Since the rising values of local real estate is raising the cost of living on island, we wanted to help returning parents keep their kids at the school, as well as encourage parents who are looking to transfer their kids to Mount Carmel."

The school also announced the continuation of incentives that were offered this past 2016-2017 school year. The first incentive is an Early Bird Registration Fee. Normally \$400 per child, parents who pay the registration fee by May 1 will get a 50-percent discount on the fee, at only \$200 per child.

The school will also continue family discounts for families that enroll more than one child. Families with two children can avail of a \$600 discount for the second child, families with three children can avail of a \$1,000 discount for the third child, and families with four children can avail of a \$1,500 discount for the fourth child.

In addition, the school will



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez (right), who is the corporate sole of Mount Carmel School, Inc., meets with school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero in front of the school's mural honoring the founders of the school, Father Arnold Bendowski and the sisters of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz.

once again offer up to \$750 per student in scholarships and financial aid for qualified students. Scholarship and Financial Aid application forms will be available on May 31.

With these incentives

and growing interest in the school, the school is anticipating an enrollment increase, consistent with enrollment trends for the past few years. Deleon Guerrero, noted that the enrollment increased from around 250 in 2012 to a current enrollment of over 500. Regarding the increase, he said, "We have taken steps to accommodate the increase by hiring additional teachers, allowing us to keep teacher-to-student ratios optimal for student learning." He added, "We will, likewise, do the same for the upcoming school year to uphold the highest standards of educational quality for our students."

The school also announced that its online admissions portal is up and running for families that want to enroll their children for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. The portal is available through the school's website, www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. The \$50 application fee per child is waived for each application submitted online using the admissions portal.

To learn more about enrolling at Mount Carmel School for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (MCS)

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda

- Call to Order
- Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
- Public Comment
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes
- New Business
 - Discussion on proposed amendments to exclusive casino license on the following items
 - The Live Training Facility 6 months extension
 - Initial Gaming Facility (IGF)
 - Community Benefit Fund
 - Implementation Schedules
 - Casino License Fee
- Executive Session
- Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

Guam archdiocese program to help clergy sex abuse victims



AP
In this November, 2014 file photo, Archbishop Anthony Apuron stands in front of the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica in Hagatna, Guam.

DBIDS begins 180-day transition for contractors, vendors

ASAN, Guam—To improve management and force protection at military installations, Joint Region Marianas is transitioning from using the Navy Commercial Access Control System (NCACS) to the Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS) for contractors and vendors requiring access to Navy and Air Force installations on island. The transition will begin April 17 with no cost to those transitioning. NCACS cardholders will have 90 days from April 17 to obtain a temporary DBIDS paper pass and 180 days from April 17 to obtain an actual DBIDS card, which will be at no cost to the applicant. Those requesting new access onto installations will receive the DBIDS card at the same time they are initially approved for access. After July 15, NCACS cards will no longer be accepted for installation access.

DBIDS is the ID card scanning system used by security personnel at Joint Region Marianas installations and can scan an ID card in a single second or less. DBIDS uses bar codes and biometrics to identify cardholders, which verifies authorizations and assigns access privileges based on identify, affiliation, and the current force protection condition. The new DBIDS scanner responds faster and with more accuracy than a human checking an ID card. This means, with the heavy volume of traffic entering a base during peak traffic hours, entry controllers can now scan credentials instead of relying on visual ID card inspections lessening bottlenecks or chokepoints at base entry control points. The system is maintained by the Defense Manpower Data Center, owners of the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Report-

ing System, or DEERS, and the Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System, or RAPIDS. When a Department of Defense credential is initially scanned at an installation entry control point, the cardholder is automatically registered in DBIDS once the ID card is validated in DEERS. Also, information is screened by the FBI National Criminal Information Center (NCIC). DBIDS is interconnected with DEERS and NCIC for continuous vetting. Contractors or vendors who need assistance in transitioning from NCACS to a DBIDS temporary pass to a DBIDS card can contact the installation Pass & ID office or Visitor Control Center. Contractors and vendors are reminded there may be a high demand during the transition and possible delays in processing new credentials and passes. *(PR)*

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam Catholics said they are in support of a program that offers professional counseling, treatment, spiritual healing, compensation and justice to Guam clergy sex abuse victims. Concerned Catholics of Guam President David Sabian said he was in favor of the Hope and Healing Guam program on Monday, the Pacific Daily News reported (<http://bit.ly/2pRtbqw>). “We support the approach that Archbishop Michael Jude Byrnes is taking in

helping clergy sex abuse cases,” Sablan said. “We also appreciate the efforts of others who help provide healing to the victims.” The Archdiocese of Agaña is facing 50 clergy sex abuse lawsuits. At the same time, Concerned Catholics of Guam are pushing for the removal and defrocking of Archbishop Anthony Apuron, who was accused of sexual abuse by former altar boys and the mother of a deceased altar boy. Byrnes replaced Apuron in November. While the plaintiffs and

their counsels settle the matter in court, Hope and Healing invites people to receive spiritual and mental therapy. Though the program is funded through the archdiocese, an independent body will administer it. California-based attorney Michael Caspino serves as the program’s executive director and he will be assisting an independent board of directors that oversee it. People who have called the program’s hotline are already receiving professional counseling, Caspino said.



Northern Marianas College

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6858/6855 • Fax: (670) 235-3696
Website: <http://www.marianas.edu>

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Re-Announcement No. 17-020
Position Title:
Department:

Pay Level & Step:
Annual Salary:
Location:
Opening Date:
Closing Date:

Supply Specialist I (2 Positions)
Procurement & Property Management Office
10/Step 01-02
\$24,330.79 - \$25,182.37
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
April 18, 2017
April 27, 2017 or Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-023
Position Title:

Department:
Pay Level & Step:
Annual Salary:
Location:
Opening Date:
Closing Date:

Administrative Assistant III (Information Technology)
Information Technology
09/Step 01-02
\$23,194.27 - \$24,006.7
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
April 07, 2017
Until Filled

Re-Announcement II No. 17-014
Position Title:

Department:
Pay Level & Step:
Annual Salary:
Location:
Opening Date:
Closing Date:

Administrative Manager I (School of Education)
School of Education
10/Step 01-02
\$24,330.79 - \$25,182.37
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
April 07, 2017
Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-042
Position Title:
Department:

Pay Level & Step:
Annual Salary:
Location:
Opening Date:
Closing Date:

Department Chair II
Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics
34/01 – 34/02
\$49,356.09 - \$51,083.56
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
April 18, 2017
April 27, 2017 or Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-031
Position Title:
Department:

Pay Level & Step:
Annual Salary:
Location:
Opening Date:
Closing Date:

Clinical Instructor, Nursing
Nursing
30/01 – 30/02
\$38,394.81 - \$39,738.63
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
April 13, 2017
April 24, 2017 or Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 17-007
Position Title:
Department:

Pay Level & Step:
Annual Salary:
Location:
Opening Date:
Closing Date:

Marketing Manager
Office of Institutional Advancement
32/01 – 32/02
\$43,197.84 - \$44,709.77
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
April 18, 2017
April 27, 2017 or Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:40 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

ROBERT T. TORRES (F0197)
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Bank of Guam, Plaintiff,)	CIVIL ACTION NO.:
vs.)	15-0085 (T)
Joaquin M. Castro, Defendant)	SECOND AMENDED SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: JOAQUIN M. CASTRO


YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the **COMPLAINT**, a copy of which can be obtained at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya, within twenty (20) days after service of this **SECOND AMENDED SUMMONS** upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert T. Torres**, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Jimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded by the Complaint.

So ORDERED on this the 31st day of March, 2017.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court



MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- Preliminary Matters**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - Regular Board Meeting - March 9, 2017
- Public Comments**
- Committee Reports**
 - Finance –
 - FY2016 Audit Report
 - Fund Status Report
- New Business**
 - MVA Philippine Office
 - MVA Sponsorship Request - Konquer Saipan/K4
 - Destination Enhancement Projects
 - Rota Mayor's Office – 360 Degree Site
 - Paseo De Marianas - ITB
 - MVA Procurement and Regulations - to amend § 90-20-1050. Authority to Debar
- Old Business**
 - Marianas International Film Festival
- Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- Executive Session**
- Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the properties listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the properties. Bids may be entered in person, in writing to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758 CK Saipan, MP 96950 or Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 30th day of March, 2017.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

KHS JROTC take part in Spring Camp

Kagman High School JROTC participated in the annual Spring Camp from April 13 to 16. The camp was full of fun and adventure for all the 143 cadets from Tinian, Rota, Saipan Southern, Kagman, and Marianas high schools. Activities that they participated in were land navigation, repelling, swimming, leadership reaction course, basketball, volleyball, first-aid, tap out drill, and rope bridge.

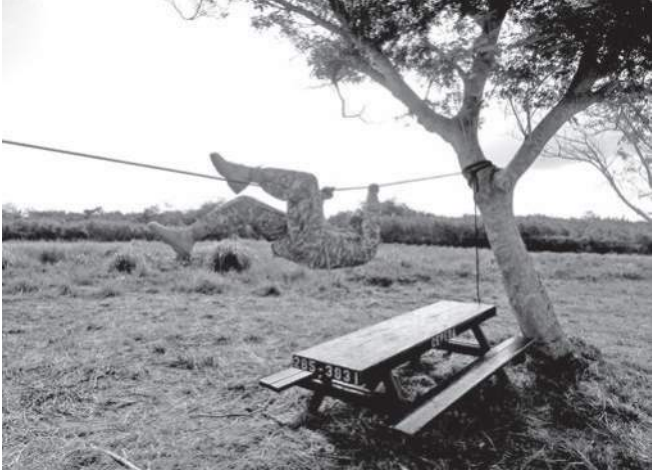
KHS JROTC took first place trophies in swimming and basketball events and one fourth place trophy in the tap out drill competition. The camp ended on Easter Sunday with everyone returning back to their home stations safely and with high expectations for next year's camp 2018. (PR)



Kagman High School JROTC cadets won two first place trophies and a fourth place trophy at Spring Camp.



The tap out drill competition activity at Spring Camp.



The rope bridge activity at Spring Camp.



Cadets in action during volleyball.



The basketball championship game between KHS and Saipan Southern High School.



Cadets take part in first-aid CPR training.



Cadets take part in making a drown-proof poncho raft.



The drown-proof briefing with a senior Army instructor.



The land navigation activity at Spring Camp.



Cadets take part in the knot tying activity.



The leadership reaction course at Spring Camp.



The repelling activity at Spring Camp.

21ST ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

Coca-Cola, Foremost Foods gives in-kind donation

The Hyatt Regency Saipan 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic received a generous donation from platinum sponsor Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) and Foremost Foods Saipan with over \$2,000 in beverages and supplies for the tournament to be held this Saturday, April 22.

Foremost Foods Saipan will serve cold coffee beverages for the early birds Saturday morning during registration prior to tee off. Coca-Cola Beverage will host a beverage station for players on the course located in hole No.8 serving refreshments to golfers.

Understanding and sharing in the mission of Hyatt, Coca-Cola Beverage and Foremost Foods, on an annual basis, support the Hyatt Regency Saipan 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic.

Hyatt Regency general manager Nick Nishikawa states, "I would like to personally thank Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) and Foremost Foods Saipan, for their continuous support with the Charity Golf Classic. We have had a great business relationship for many years now and most especially a great relationship in working together to support our island community. On behalf of the six beneficiaries this year, thank you."

All proceeds donated to the Hyatt Regency Saipan 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic will go to the event's six beneficiaries to include: Make-A-Wish Foundation, aiding them in their mission to grant wishes to children with life-threatening diseases; Kagman High School Million Dollar Scholars Club, supporting



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Coca-Cola Hydration Team member Ranilo Enriquez, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo, Coca-Cola Warehouse supervisor Satyananda Maharjan, Coca-Cola and Foremost assistant operations manager Ailene Benavidez, Hyatt Regency Rooms director Rosalyn Quintanilla, Coca-Cola Human Resources Bonnie Khan Sagan, Coca-Cola Warehouse assistant Kevin Suda, Hyatt Regency Security manager Robin Eugenio, and Coca-Cola and Foremost administrative assistant Noemee Being.

CNMI high school students in preparation and travel to higher education; Marianas Behavioral Health International a rehabilitation center dedicated to provide sup-

port for those who want to make a positive change in their lives; Karidat Social Services, a local organization supporting the needs of the community; Empty Ves-

sel Ministry Foundation who assists impoverished women and children of the CNMI; and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council with a goal to focus on supporting the education of indigenous cultures of the CNMI.

Grown in popularity over the years from being a fun golf tournament for Club At The Hyatt® Members to an island-wide charitable event; this year the Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic turns 21—a special year that most either remember or don't for the same reasons.

Golfers are encouraged to invite a guest or two to the dinner banquet poolside, \$35 per person inclusive of free-flowing beverages and a dinner buffet featuring Certified Angus Beef cuts. Raffle tickets in the amounts of \$1, \$5, and \$10 will be sold for an array of prizes from designer

handbags to high-end golf gear to round-trip tickets to the Philippines, Japan, Korea, and Europe that will be paired with hotel nights in other Hyatt, Hyatt Regency, and Hyatt affiliate hotels. Prize packages as such will not be offered at any other tournament for the rest of 2017.

The Coca-Cola Company is the world's largest beverage company with four of the world's largest beverage brands: Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Fanta, and Sprite as well as an array of other beverages inclusive of waters, juices, energy drinks, teas and sports drinks. Their distribution and consumption exceeds 1.3 billion servings per day in over 200 countries. Coca-Cola Beverage Company (Guam), Inc. and Coca-Cola Beverage Company (Micronesia), Inc. collectively own and distribute their products to all ends of Micronesia inclusive of Guam, CNMI, FSM, Marshall Islands, and Palau. (PR)

MarPac Distributors donates in-kind package

MarPac Distributors proudly supports the Hyatt Regency Saipan 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic with a generous in-kind donation package.

Rain or shine, the 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic will tee off at 7:30am this Saturday, April 22, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course. The 150 golfers will share in the mission of Hyatt—to care for others so they can be their best—at work and beyond. MarPac will host a beverage station in hole No.9 as well as a Michelob Ultra/Callaway Hybrid Golf Club for the golfer who has the most accurate drive. On the 21st anniversary of the Charity Golf Classic, Hyatt Regency Saipan extends a special thanks to MarPac for their support.

"MarPac has consistently supported the development and growth of our island community. This year, we are especially pleased to have the organization as a platinum sponsor and share in the mission of Hyatt. Their donation is a means for us to provide the support needed by many within our community," said Tyrell Pauling, director of Food and Beverage, Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"We are proud to support the Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic. MarPac is undoubtedly in support of the mission of Hyatt to help those in need within our community. We encourage golfers to enjoy their time on the greens and join us for the awards dinner that evening, together we rally to support the six benefi-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, MarPac Distributors resident manager Guy Pudney, Hyatt Regency Saipan Food and Beverage director Tyrell Pauling, Hyatt Regency Food and Beverage assistant director Seiji Shindo, and MarPac Distributors Sales manager James Lee.

ciaries who in turn enhance the quality of life for those in need," said Guy Pudney, resident manager of MarPac Distributors.

In the late 1940s, Ambrosio Torres Shimizu and two other partners founded Ambrose Inc. Initially, the organization sold the surplus of military products and beer to civilians in Guam. After an initial turn down, Budweiser agreed to send 500 cases as a trial of selling, and, it was the beginning of a successful venture for Ambrose Inc. until this day.

Working as a familial team, Ambrosio and his three sons Frank, Joe, and Paul expanded the entity further into the Pacific region of Oceania. In the 1980s Ambrose Inc. entered Saipan and founded Marianas Pacific Distributors (MarPac), and, three years later a branch in Yap, then Pohnpei, Palau, Chuuk, and the Marshall Islands. Anheuser-Busch recognized Ambrose Inc. as the first international wholesaler to sell

more than a million cases of beer and soon after as the Anheuser-Busch's Export Wholesaler of the Year with a record surpassing \$10 million. They opened Ambrosio Micronesia Inc. in Palau and the Western Caroline Islands distributing beer, spirits, and tobacco. In 1988 Ambrosio T. Shimizu passed, nevertheless, his business continues to prosper and serve the Pacific region through the hard work and dedication of his three sons and their team members at every distribution center. (PR)

Saipan Brewing Co. to set up beer garden

For all golf and craft beer enthusiast, the Hyatt Regency Saipan 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic received a generous donation from platinum sponsor Saipan Brewing Co.

On the day of the tournament, Saipan Brewing Co. will host a beer garden in hole No.1 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

At the 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic awards banquet dinner, hosted by Hyatt Regency Saipan, poolside craft beer will be served to guests as well.

"We are happy to support the Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic. The continual involvement and support Hyatt Regency Saipan gives back to the community is immeasurable. Saipan Brewing Co. shares in the same values and is happy to support a noteworthy cause," said Steve Sablan, Saipan Brewing Co. brewmaster.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive assistant MariAngela Mendoza, Hyatt Regency executive chef Gabriele Colombo, Hyatt Regency executive sous chef Zenn Tomokane, Saipan Brewing Co. owning partners Jay Wolfe and Steve Sablan, and Hyatt Regency Food and Beverage director Tyrell Pauling.

"On behalf of Hyatt Regency Saipan, I extend our gratitude to Saipan Brewing Company for their generous donation to this 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic. Through donations like this, our annual golf tournament is a vehicle to extend much needed support to our community members," said Tyrell Pauling, director of Food and Beverage, Hyatt Regency Saipan. Saipan Brewing Company is

a locally owned partnership between Jay Wolf and Steven Sablan and their wives—Marissa Affleje-Sablan (Steven's wife) and Phuong Luu (Jay's wife).

Together, they develop recipes, brew and package, and distribute craft beer to the rest of the island. Understanding the science behind brewing, craft-beer brewers Steve and Jay artistically concoct new recipes featuring inspired tastes as well as innovative flavors. The inception of Saipan Brewing Co. was initially a pastime of Steve and Jay as craft beer enthusiasts. Today, Saipan Brewing Co. is available at many bars and retailers on Saipan.

The 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic is sold out. Hyatt Regency Saipan would like to share their gratitude to all event partners, sponsors, and especially the golfers. It will be the event of 2017—a 21st anniversary to remember. (PR)

Business

Coca-Cola in N. Korea? It's (usually not) the Real Thing

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Coca-Cola is possibly the world's most recognizable brand, an almost inescapable symbol of the global appeal of American-style consumer culture. There are only two countries in the world where Coke doesn't officially operate, and one of them is North Korea.

But even the North is developing quite a taste for cola—though the iconic red-and-white labeled bottles the cola comes in likely are not exactly the Real Thing and their twist tops need a bit more than the usual caution. They have a tendency to leak or refuse to come off at all.

North Korea and Cuba are the only countries where Coca-Cola Co. has no operations, said communications director Ann Moore. Coke doesn't do business with either because of sanctions.

That doesn't stop Coke making its way over the North Korean border, however.

Coke bottled in China and bearing Chinese labels isn't hard to find in North Korea's relatively affluent capital, Pyongyang. It is sold in upscale grocery stores that cater to the capital's elite and a growing number of middle class residents, who are increasingly earning enough hard cash through entrepreneurial side businesses to purchase more than bare necessities.

Coke from China can also be quaffed in international hotels frequented by both locals who can afford their high prices and foreign tourists and business people, most of them from China as well. Pepsi sightings are rarer.

Japan's exports, imports surge in sign of renewed vigor

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's exports rose at a faster-than-expected 12 percent pace in March, while imports jumped nearly 16 percent from a year earlier, the government said Thursday.

The data suggest relatively strong foreign demand could lift growth for the world's No. 3 economy in this quarter, economists said.

While domestic demand has remained lackluster, exports have lifted industrial production in recent months. Japan posted its first trade surplus in six years in 2016 thanks to a rebound in exports late in the year, though uncertainties over U.S. policy under U.S. President Donald Trump and over China's recovery persist.

The 7.23 trillion yen (\$66 billion) in exports and 6.61



AP
In this Tuesday, April 11, 2017, photo, a can of Air Koryo cola, produced by Air Koryo, the country's flagship airline which recently introduced its own brand of cola on flights to and from Beijing is seen in Pyongyang, North Korea.

The cola served at restaurants and lining the shelves in stores where more typical North Koreans shop are likely to be local imitations, though one of the more popular ones could, from a distance, easily pass as a Coke.

Its 1.25-liter bottle has the same Coke shape, the Coke-like red and white label, the distinctive red cap. But instead of the usual Chinese phonetic characters for Coca-Cola, it has "Cocoa-flavored Sweet Soda Drink" splashed across its label in yellow Korean lettering.

The label also prominently features a bar code and the universally recognized anti-littering logo of a person responsibly tossing his trash in a bin. It includes a calorie count and the address and phone number of the bottler, the Wonbong Trading Co. in Pyongyang. Such numbers can only be accessed by North Koreans using the North Korean phone network.

So no comment there.

How does it taste?

Not bad, it turns out. Good fizz. Indistinguishable appearance. If you like Coke, it's a very good facsimile. Some other similar sodas claiming to be cocoa-flavored but not aiming to match Coke's taste do in fact taste like chocolate.

Back in 2000, when ties between the U.S. and North Korea were going through something of a thaw, there were widespread rumors that Coke was on the verge of officially breaking into the market. Blame North Korea's decision to develop nuclear weapons for dooming that plan.

The locally bottled versions of Coke-like drinks have filled the vacuum.

Air Koryo, the country's flagship airline, recently introduced its own brand of cola on flights to and from Beijing. That's not quite as odd as it might sound. Like many large state-run enterprises, the airline also operates a fleet of taxis, has at least one gas station in Pyongyang and puts its name on other soft drinks in order to turn a profit.

Vice President Mike Pence earlier this week.

Resource-scarce Japan relies on imports of oil and gas, mostly from the Middle East, to light its cities and power its factories.

Higher oil prices boosted imports from Middle Eastern countries by more than 45 percent, including a 75 percent jump in imports from Saudi Arabia.

In fact, prices accounted for a large share, 12.5 percent year-on-year, of the increase in imports, said Marcel Thieliant of Capital Economics. Export prices rose only by 3.7 percent, while export volumes were up 6.6 percent, he said.

Vehicle exports rose 4 percent, while exports of electrical machinery were up 11 percent. Exports of other machinery jumped 14 percent.

Nation

Fresno shooter gave police detailed account of slayings

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—The violence that culminated in a mass shooting Tuesday began five days earlier when police say Kori Ali Muhammad shot an unarmed security guard at a Motel 6, who he said disrespected him while he visited a female friend at the hotel.

Muhammad shot the guard, 25-year-old Carl Williams, multiple times at close range shortly after 11 p.m., police said.

Then the 6-foot-1-inch, 220-pound Muhammad ran behind the motel and climbed onto the roof of a nearby 7-Eleven, where he hid out that night. Friday morning, he watched police officers investigate the crime scene and by evening he was in a ravine, where he told police he conducted voodoo rituals for three days.

Police say Muhammad gave rare and unusual details about his movements and the killings over several hours of questioning following his arrest, even returning with officers to the crime scenes and demonstrating his actions.

"As he spoke about the shooting and shooting individuals, he did so in a very callous manner," Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer said.

Muhammad, 39, told investigators he is Muslim but prays to seven different gods. After emerging from the ravine Sunday,

he cut his braided hair and burned it, altering his appearance from the "wanted" photos police were soon to release in a manhunt for him in the death of the security guard.

On Tuesday, Muhammad headed over to a store called The Brass Unicorn in search of crystals to use for more rituals. But it was closed, so he stopped at a Starbucks where he got on the internet for the first time since Thursday night and learned he was a suspect in the guard's murder.

"Once he saw that he was wanted for murder, he was not going to go down for shooting a security guard for disrespecting him but that he was going to kill as many white males as possible," Dyer said.

Shortly before 11 a.m., he approached two men sitting in a PG&E truck on a tree-lined street in downtown Fresno. He told police he noticed the driver was Latino and the passenger was white so he shot four rounds into the passenger side. Zackary Randalls, 34, died.

In the next three minutes, police say Muhammad killed two more people and shot at several others, shooting 16 rounds of bullets on a stream of people who happened to be in the wrong place.

Muhammad shot at another white man who had just walked out of a house,

but he missed. He fired one round into a car that drove by, but then realized the people in the car were Latina and stopped shooting.

Mark Gassett, 37, was standing on a sidewalk near Catholic Charities. Muhammad shot him in the chest, and fired twice more after he fell to make sure he was dead.

He then set his sights on three white men standing at a bus stop. He shot and the men scattered. Muhammad said he selected the one who looked older and heavier, chasing David Jackson, 58, to the parking lot of a Catholic Charities building, where he shot him twice, killing him.

Muhammad ran from the parking lot, wrapped his gun in clothing and set it on the ground. He encountered a man carrying a box of food. They spoke. The man then took the gun from Muhammad and fled.

Police are pleading for the man to turn the weapon in.

Muhammad starting running, until he saw a police car, which was there within minutes. Dyer said he dropped two necklaces he was holding that he said were charms to ward off evil and gave himself up to police.

"I did it. I shot them," Muhammad told officers as they arrested him, according to the chief.

Survivalist convicted of killing trooper in sniper ambush

MILFORD, Pa. (AP)—A man who hid in the forest under cover of night and opened fire with a sniper's rifle was convicted of capital murder on Wednesday in the ambush slaying of a state police trooper he targeted at random in hopes of sparking a revolution.

A jury convicted Eric Frein in the Sept. 12, 2014, attack at the Blooming Grove state police barracks in northeastern Pennsylvania. Cpl. Bryon Dickson II, a married father of two, was killed, and a second trooper was shot through the hips and was left debilitated.

Frein was "literally hunting humans" when he peered at his targets through a scope during a late-night shift change and squeezed the trigger four times, Pike County District Attorney Ray Tonkin told jurors in his closing argument. He called Frein a terrorist who sought to change the government through bullets and bombs.

The gunman led authorities

on a 48-day manhunt through the rugged Pocono Mountains before U.S. marshals caught him at an abandoned airplane hangar more than 20 miles from the barracks.

After a two-week trial that presented uncontested evidence of Frein's guilt, the jury convicted him on all 12 charges, including murder of a law enforcement officer, terrorism and two weapons of mass destruction counts related to small explosive devices he left in the woods while eluding capture.

Frein, 33, showed no emotion as the verdict was read, and he avoided looking at his parents as he was led from the courtroom. The trial moves into a penalty phase Thursday, with the same jury deciding whether he deserves the death penalty or life in prison without parole.

Tonkin said he will be seeking "full justice," while defense lawyer Bill Ruzzo said he will appeal to jurors to spare Frein's life.

"We would like to pres-

ent Eric in the most sympathetic light that we can," he said. "We can't make him a holy man, but we're trying to make him a man."

The verdict was expected after prosecutors presented more than 500 pieces of evidence tying Frein to the ambush. His DNA was found on the trigger of the murder weapon, and police recovered several handwritten notebook pages at his campsite in which he described the attack and his subsequent escape into the woods in chilling detail, writing how he shot Dickson twice and watched him fall "still and quiet."

Tonkin, in his closing argument Wednesday, called Frein "a terrorist with murder in his heart, a plan in his mind and a rifle in his hand."

Frein shot Dickson in the chest and through the shoulders and spine from a distance of 87 yards, waited nearly 90 seconds until Trooper Alex Douglass came to Dickson's aid and then shot him, too, Tonkin said.

Asia

Pence praises Indonesia's democratic, tolerant values

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Vice President Mike Pence praised Indonesia's democracy and moderate form of Islam after meeting Thursday with the president of the world's most populous Muslim nation.

The comments, though routine, had significance for Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, who a day earlier suffered a serious political setback when a political ally was defeated by Islamic conservatives in the election for Jakarta governor. The divisive campaign undermined the image of Indonesia abroad as a generally tolerant Muslim nation.

Indonesia is the latest stop on an Asian tour by Pence that is reinforcing traditional U.S. alliances at a time when Donald Trump's presidency has raised questions about the strength of the U.S. commitment to the region.

Pence said at a joint news conference with Jokowi that the U.S. wants to strengthen its strategic partnership with Indonesia. In brief comments, Jokowi said they agreed to boost cooperation.

The vice president praised Indonesia for the moderate form of Islam it practices and said the two countries would continue to cooperate on combating terrorism.

"As the second- and third-largest democracies in the world, our two countries share many common values including freedom, the rule of law, human rights and religious diversity," Pence said. "The United States is proud to partner with Indonesia. It promotes and protects these values."

But Pence foreshadowed some reworking of commercial and economic ties, saying that the U.S. seeks a free and

fair relationship that helps job creation and economic growth for both sides. He said that U.S. exporters should face a level playing field and the relationship should be "win-win."

Indonesia is on Trump's trade hit list of nations that he considers the U.S. is losing out to in trade, and U.S. company Freeport-McMoran Inc., which operates the world's largest copper mine in the Indonesian province of Papua, is in a protracted dispute with the Indonesian government.

Pence's first engagement was morning tea with Jokowi at the presidential palace. Later Thursday, Pence was to visit Istiqlal Mosque, the largest mosque in Southeast Asia.

Trump's company, the Trump Organization, is active in Indonesia with plans to manage luxury resorts being built near the capital Jakarta and on the tourist island of Bali.

Duterte offers bounty for extremists in foiled island attack

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte offered a bounty Wednesday for the capture of Muslim extremists behind a foiled attack on a central resort island, and said he ordered the navy to bomb militants who travel by boat in search of kidnap victims.

The tough-talking leader told reporters during a visit to central Bohol province that he was considering to arm civilians there so they can help the government fight terrorists and drug suspects, adding he prefers outlaws dead than alive.

"I encourage civilians also to kill because these are wanted dead or alive with a reward, but I prefer them dead because if they're alive I would have to feed them ... and that's very expensive," Duterte said.

His visit came a week after troops, backed by airstrikes, battled Abu Sayyaf fighters, leaving four militants, three soldiers, a policeman and two villagers dead. Troops are hunting several extremists who escaped.

The 1 million peso (\$20,000) reward is for information that would allow the military or police to capture the fleeing militants, Duterte said. He said that informants' identities would be kept confidential.

Military officials said the extremists traveled far from their jungle bases in southern Sulu province to carry out kidnappings for ransom and bombings for the first time in Bohol, a popular tourism destination for its white-sand beaches, waterfalls, caves and

wildlife.

Asked what could be the specific target of the militants, Duterte said they might be plotting to disrupt a two-day meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which started in Bohol's resort island of Panglao on Wednesday and "create a disaster for all of us."

Duterte inspected several areas in Bohol and gave assurances the province is secure, saying, "We have more than enough officers to fight for one year, if need be, so you are safe."

The president warned the militants the government would now try to track them, including by satellite, to prevent them from venturing far from their southern island and create trouble elsewhere.

hammad. Hussainkhil said the dead also included a number of expert bomb makers. He says no government forces were killed.

Australia to raise English language standard for citizenship

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia plans to tighten its citizenship rules to require higher English language skills, longer residency and evidence of integration such as a job, officials said Thursday. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the new citizenship test would

reflect Australian values instead of the current multiple-choice format. "This will be good for the applicants, good for the nation, underlining our Australian values at the very heart of Australian citizenship," Turnbull told reporters. "This is not about administration. This is about allegiance and commitment to Australian values," he added. Budding Australian citizens would have to be competent English language speakers and have been permanent residents for at least four years. Currently a permanent resident can become a citizen after one year.

World

Venezuela's opposition seeks to keep pressure on Maduro

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's opposition is looking to keep up pressure on President Nicolas Maduro by taking to the streets again Thursday hours after at least two people were killed and hundreds arrested in the biggest anti-government demonstrations in years.

Tens of thousands of protesters demanding elections and denouncing what they consider increasingly dictatorial government were met by a curtain of tear gas and rubber bullets as they attempted to march to downtown Caracas on Wednesday. Dozens even had to slide down a concrete embankment and into the Guaire River to escape the noxious fumes.

Across the country the clashes were intense. Pro-government militias, some of whose members were armed, were blamed for the two deaths, including that of a teenager in Caracas who was heading to a soccer game with friends. In several cities, protesters described being terrorized by militia members, some of them armed and circling the protesters in motorcycles.

As night fell, a group of youths tore down signs and billboards to build barricades from which they threw Molotov cocktails and rocks at



An anti-government protesters throws a molotov bomb at security forces in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

riot police.

The two killings bring to seven the death toll since protests began three weeks ago over the Supreme Court's decision to strip the opposition-controlled congress of its last remaining powers, a move that was later reversed amid a storm of international criticism.

As protesters with burning eyes headed home the opposition called for another round of street demonstrations Thursday.

"If today we were millions tomorrow even more of us need to come out," said opposition governor and two-time presidential candidate Henrique Capriles, who last week was barred from running for office for 15 years.

Israeli defense officials: Assad still has chemical weapons

JERUSALEM (AP)—Syria still has up to three tons of chemical weapons, Israeli defense officials said Wednesday in the first specific intelligence assessment of President Bashar Assad's weapons capabilities since a deadly chemical attack earlier this month.

The estimate came as the head of the international chemical weapons watchdog said laboratory tests had provided "incontrovertible" evidence that victims and survivors of the April 4 attack in northern Syria were exposed to sarin nerve gas or a similar banned toxin.

Israel, along with the United States and much of the international community, has accused Assad's forces of carrying out the attack, which killed at least 90 people, including dozens of children.

A senior Israeli military official said Israeli intelligence believes Syrian military commanders ordered the attack, with Assad's knowledge.

Briefing reporters, he said Israel estimates Assad still has "between one and three tons" of chemical weapons.

The assessment was confirmed by two other Israeli defense officials. All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity under military briefing rules.

Assad has strongly denied he was behind the attack in the opposition-held town of Khan Sheikhoun in Syria's northern Idlib province, and has accused the opposition of trying to frame his government. Top Assad ally, Russia, has asserted a Syrian government airstrike hit a rebel chemical weapons factory, causing the disaster.

In response to the April 4 attack, the United States fired 59 missiles at a Syrian air base it said was the launching pad for the attack. Israel welcomed the strike on its northern neighbor.

The Syrian government has been locked in a six-year civil war against an array of opposition forces. The fight-

The Supreme Court's decision has energized Venezuela's fractious opposition, which had been struggling to channel growing disgust with Maduro over widespread food shortages, triple-digit inflation and rampant crime.

Opponents are pushing for Maduro's removal through early elections and the release of scores of political prisoners. The government last year abruptly postponed regional elections the opposition was heavily favored to win and cut off a petition drive to force a referendum seeking Maduro's removal before elections late next year. The opposition sees the government measures as turning Venezuela into a nearly full-blown dictatorship.

ing has killed an estimated 400,000 people and displaced half of Syria's population.

Israel has largely stayed out of the fighting, though it has carried out a number of airstrikes on suspected Iranian weapons shipments it believed were bound for the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. Iran and Hezbollah, both bitter enemies of Israel, along with Russia have sent forces to support Assad.

Following Russia's intervention in September 2015, Israel and Moscow opened a hotline to coordinate military activity in Syria. Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman will fly to Moscow next week for talks with senior Russian officials.

Syria agreed to give up its chemical weapons arsenal to avert U.S. strikes following a chemical weapons attack in opposition-held suburbs of Damascus in August 2013 that killed hundreds of people and sparked worldwide outrage.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taliban governor among 14 killed in Afghanistan clashes

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—At least 14 Taliban fighters, including the shadow governor of the northern Baghlan province, have been killed in heavy fighting with Afghan forces, officials said Wednesday. Amir Gul Hussainkhil, the deputy provincial police chief, said Afghan security forces launched a large-scale attack on the insurgents the night before in the western part of the province, setting off five hours of intense fighting and killing Taliban shadow governor Mawlawi Lal Mo-

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Alligator crawls out of Louisiana storm drain

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—An alligator has been wrangled after crawling out of a storm drain in Louisiana. WWL reports (<http://bit.ly/2pbVXFk>) a 7-foot (2.13-meter) alligator emerged from a drain in Jefferson Parish on Monday after heavy rains. The drain was located behind an elementary school that wasn't holding class because of spring break. The alligator did move around, but Bucktown resident Hazel Porter described it as mainly "just chilling." Video obtained by WWL shows a group of Bucktown residents detaining the alligator by lassoing its neck and tying the rope to a nearby pole as the creature thrashes. Steven Nicholson, a witness, says wildlife professions arrived and taped its mouth shut. The wranglers placed the bound alligator in a pickup truck and planned to relocate it.

Arena bans cowbells after some are thrown during hockey game

ERIE, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania arena has decided it really needs less cowbell. The Erie Times-News (<http://bit.ly/2pDgRxx>) reports that the operator of the Erie Insurance Arena is banning the noise-makers. Fans clanged cowbells throughout the Erie Otters' playoff game Tuesday. And some fans threw them onto the ice as the Otters celebrated a win that sent them to the Ontario Hockey League's Western Conference finals. The Otters had provided cowbells to fans as a giveaway and sold them as part of its merchandise line, but spokesman Aaron Cooney said the team agrees with the ban and will no longer sell the items. Arena operator Erie Events said Wednesday the ban was intended to make "a safer environment" for everyone.

Loud sex sounds interrupt pro tennis match in Florida

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP)—An outdoor professional tennis match in Florida came to a brief halt amid sounds of loud sex. Frances Tiafoe was about to serve Mitchell Krueger during their Tuesday night match in the Sarasota Open when he paused and flashed a smile of disbelief over the sound of a woman moaning in pleasure. Broadcaster Mike Cation initially described the sounds as coming from someone playing a pornographic video in the stands, but later said they

were coming from an apartment nearby. Both players had fun with the situation while the crowd laughed. Kreuger hit a ball sharply in the direction of the sounds, and Tiafoe screamed, "It can't be that good!" Cation later saluted the responsible couple on Twitter, writing "Sounds like you guys had a good time!"

Namaste: Florida judge teaches yoga on courthouse lawn

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida judge sometimes wears yoga clothes under her black robe. At noon on the last Friday of every month, Duval County Judge Eleni Derkie strips off the robe and heads to the front lawn of Jacksonville's courthouse where she leads a yoga class that's free to anyone who shows up. The Florida Times-Union (<http://bit.ly/2ppjvXJ>) reports Derke has taught yoga since 2014 but says her counterparts in the legal profession aren't always the easiest converts. Courtroom bailiffs sometimes tease her, but Derke says yoga provides a few moments of peace during an otherwise stressful day. Sometimes, she's even been known to urge jurors to stretch and take deep breaths during lengthy trials. She'll continue the classes this year until the weather gets too hot.

Ohio man turns in \$14,000 found on side of road

WORTHINGTON, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio man says he was trying to set a good example for his children when he turned in \$14,000 he found on the side of the road. WBNS-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/2oGSCeU>) Jake Bowers found the money April 8 as he drove his family to a park in Worthington, a Columbus suburb. Bowers said when he initially saw the bag on the roadside, he thought it might contain someone's laptop. Instead, it was filled with \$100 bills. Bowers took the bag to the Worthington police station, and it was returned to its owner. A police report says the owner had taken the cash to a car dealer but left without buying a vehicle. He told police he must have left it on top of his car and driven off.

South Carolina homeowner finds 9-foot alligator on porch

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. (AP)—It wasn't the Easter bunny that startled a South

Carolina homeowner and his family. It wasn't even a burglar. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/2pbRED>) Susie and Steve Polston were worried that someone was trying to get into their home on Sunday. Instead, Polston's 16-year-old son found the intruder: a nine-foot alligator crawling on their second-story porch. The family says the alligator climbed a back stairwell to the porch, crunched through the aluminum screen door and nestled between a sofa and a swinging bench. State law requires a nuisance-trapped alligator to be killed, but the family didn't want that. The other choice was to wait it out, but the alligator was eventually euthanized. Last year, an alligator rang a doorbell, while another fell asleep on a porch.

Oklahoma police chief issues himself a speeding ticket

SPERRY, Okla. (AP)—The police chief of a small north-east Oklahoma community says he issued himself a citation for speeding, but only after being caught on video. Sperry Police Chief Justin Burch posted an apology on the department's Facebook page Saturday, saying he was "wrong in traveling at 75 and 80 mph." Sperry is about 10 miles north of Tulsa. Burch admits he's not sure he would have issued the ticket if not for the video, and that he had a "reason for being in a hurry." Nonetheless, he admits he must "be held accountable." Burch says he wrote himself the more than \$300 ticket and that he'll pay it in full.

Starbucks calls shifting-color drink a 'Unicorn Frappuccino'

NEW YORK (AP)—Starbucks is calling a limited-time beverage that changes colors and flavors with a stir of the straw a "Unicorn Frappuccino." The chain says the drink was inspired by the trend of unicorn-themed food online and starts out purple with a sweet and fruity taste. It changes to pink and tart after it's stirred to mix in a blue drizzle. It will be available from April 19 to April 23 in the United States, Canada and Mexico, with a 12-ounce size containing 280 calories. Earlier this month, Seattle-based Starbucks also introduced a "Pink Drink" made with coconut milk and topped with strawberries. The company said it had previously been a customized drink that enjoyed "fandom online."

Science & Technology

Yahoo bowing out as a public company with revenue shrinking

SUNNYVALE, Calif.

(AP)—Yahoo is bowing out as a public company with its revenue still declining, a chronic problem that culminated in its sale to Verizon Communications.

Despite the revenue downturn, Yahoo fared better during the first three months of the year than analysts had anticipated—a low bar that was another sign of how far the internet pioneer has fallen during the past decade.

The results released Tuesday will mark the final quarterly report of Yahoo's 21-year history as a publicly traded company unless the Verizon deal unexpectedly falls apart. Yahoo expects the \$4.5 billion sale to close in June before the end of the second quarter.

The deal's final price reflects a \$350 million markdown that Yahoo gave Verizon to compensate for the damage caused by two different security breaches that resulted in personal information being stolen from more than 1 billion Yahoo user accounts.

After Verizon takes over, Yahoo's \$8 billion in cash and valuable stakes in two Asian internet companies—Alibaba Group and Yahoo Japan—will be turned over to a newly created company called Altaba. Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer won't be part of Altaba, and she isn't expected to join Verizon to oversee the Yahoo email and other digital services being



This July 19, 2016, file photo shows a man walks in front of a Yahoo sign at the company's headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif.

sold. If she doesn't have a job, Mayer will receive a \$23 million severance package.

Mayer, a former Google executive who has been Yahoo's CEO for nearly five years, defended her track record in a statement accompanying the first-quarter numbers.

"I've never been more proud of the improvements we've made to the business and the value we've delivered to our shareholders," Mayer said.

Yahoo's stock has tripled during Mayer's reign, but the run-up was driven by the company's stake in Alibaba, which is China's e-commerce leader and boasts a market value of \$278 billion. The Sunnyvale, California, company invested in Alibaba before Mayer's arrival.

Mayer had hoped to turn around Yahoo, but instead oversaw further erosion even while investing heavily in mobile applications and video. She couldn't

solve a problem that dogged Yahoo for most of the past decade—how to get a larger piece of the digital advertising sales that increasingly have been flowing toward Google and Facebook, a pair of companies that once were smaller than Yahoo.

After subtracting ad commissions, Yahoo's revenue totaled \$834 million in the first quarter, a 3 percent decrease from last year. In the first full quarter of Mayer's tenure, Yahoo's revenue after ad commissions stood at \$1.1 billion.

Yahoo earned \$100 million, or 10 cents per share, in the first quarter, rebounding from a loss of \$99 million, or 10 cents per share, last year. If not for certain accounting items unrelated to its ongoing business, Yahoo said it would have earned 18 cents per share, topping the average estimate of 16 cents per share among six analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research.

Google Earth invites you to 'get lost' exploring the planet

NEW YORK (AP)—Google Earth is getting a revival, as the 3-D mapping service reorients itself to become more of a tool for adventure and exploration.

A central feature in the new Google Earth is Voyager. Google has partnered with such groups as the BBC and NASA to add video clips, photos and text narratives to three-dimensional representations of particular locations.

The Jane Goodall Institute, for instance, lets you journey to spots in Tanzania that inspired its founding chimpanzee expert. You can also get overlays of chimpanzee ranges and compare imagery from 2005 and 2014 to see the effects of forest restoration efforts.

The producers of "Sesame Street" show off Muppets from co-productions around the world; the map shows

where the Muppets live and offer stories about the region and its culture.

Separately, a new "I'm Feeling Lucky" feature takes you to a location selected at random. Google Earth is highlighting some 20,000 lesser-known destinations—the kinds of places locals might frequent or know about, such as the Indonesian island of Bunaken, part of a national marine park.

Google Earth used to be the place to go to for satellite views and 3-D images stitched together from aerial fly-bys. A software download was required, limiting its use. Google Maps has incorporated many of those features, making Google Earth even less necessary.

Tuesday's update is about giving you a reason to use Google Earth again. Google says that while Maps is about getting you to a destination,

Earth is about immersing you there, or "getting lost."

With the update, Google Earth now works on Google's Chrome browsers for desktops. It still requires an app for phones and tablets because of the heavy graphics involved; Google is rolling out updates for Android, but there's no Google Earth app for iPhones or iPads yet.

Some older features will still require a software download on desktops. That includes maps of Mars and the moon through a partnership with NASA.

Google also announced an update to a virtual-reality version of Google Earth. It now works with Facebook's Oculus Rift, not just the HTC Vive. But it won't work with cheaper, phone-based VR systems, such as Google's Daydream and Samsung's Gear VR.

Life & Style

Fox News Channel dismisses O'Reilly, its biggest star

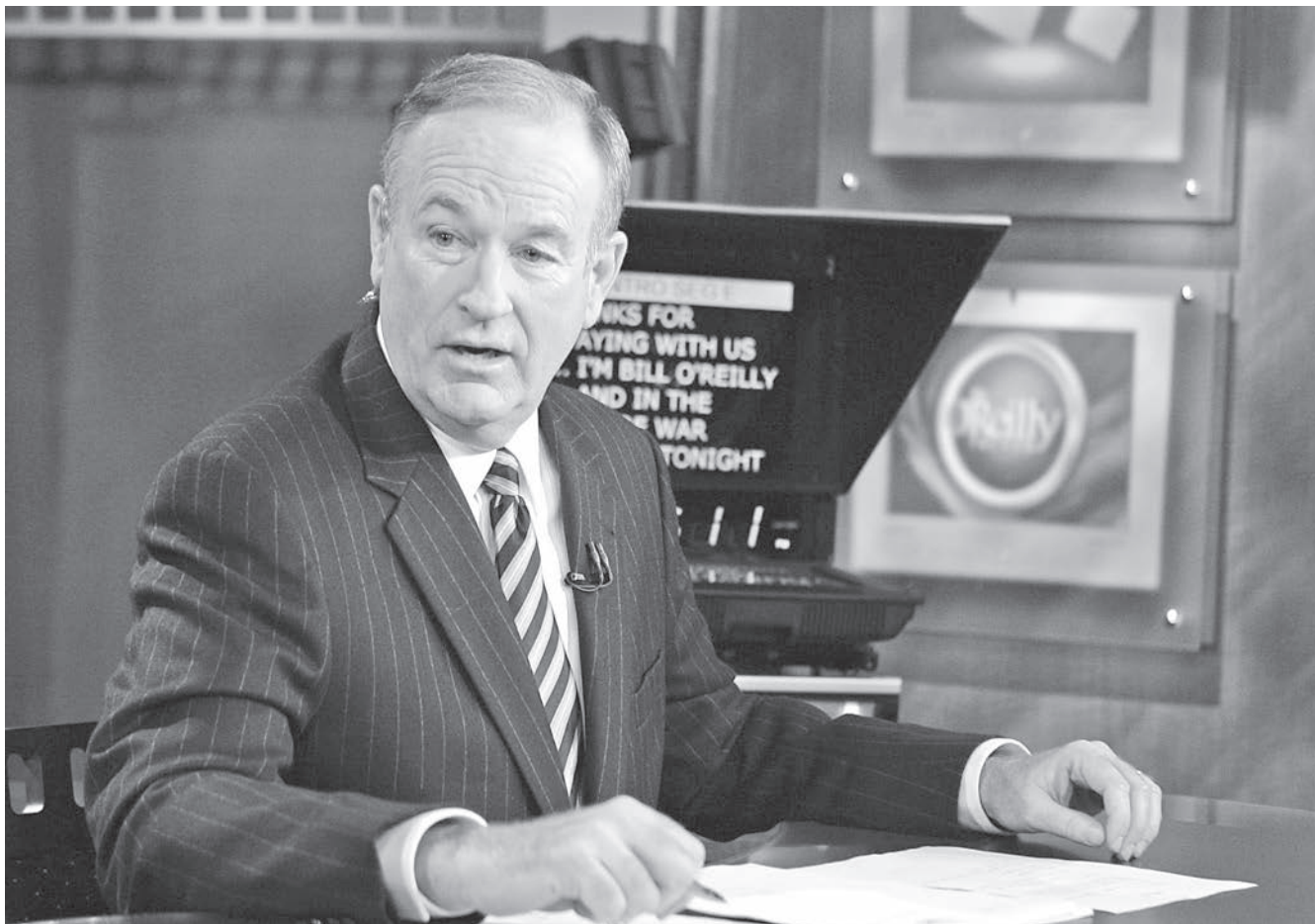
NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel's parent company fired Bill O'Reilly on Wednesday following an investigation into harassment allegations, bringing a stunning end to cable news' most popular program and one that came to define the bravado of his network over 20 years.

O'Reilly lost his job on the same day he was photographed in Rome shaking the hand of Pope Francis. By the evening, "The O'Reilly Factor" no longer bore his name, simply titled "The Factor."

The downfall of Fox's most popular—and most lucrative—personality began with an April 1 report in The New York Times that five women had been paid a total of \$13 million to keep quiet about disturbing encounters with O'Reilly, who continued to deny any wrongdoing in a statement hours after he was fired. Dozens of his show's advertisers fled within days, even though O'Reilly's viewership increased.

O'Reilly's exit came nine months after his former boss, Fox News CEO Roger Ailes, was ousted following allegations of sexual harassment.

Following the Times story, 21st Century Fox said it had asked the same law firm that investigated Ailes to look into O'Reilly's behavior. 21st Century Fox leaders Rupert Murdoch and his sons Lachlan and James said in a memo



AP
In this Jan. 18, 2007 file photo, Fox News commentator Bill O'Reilly appears on the Fox News show, "The O'Reilly Factor," in New York.

the show.

O'Reilly, 67, had ruled the "no spin zone" on television with a quick smile and an even quicker temper. He pushed a populist, conservative-leaning point of view born from growing up on Long Island, and was quick to shout down those who disagreed with him. Fans loved his willingness to talk back to power or point out hypocrisy among liberal politicians or media members.

O'Reilly and President Donald Trump are both "crowd-pleasing showmen who know how to signal to loyalists in their audience that they are not taking themselves quite as seriously as their detractors are," said news consultant Andrew Tyndall. "Half of the fun that they have with their audiences comes from watching the outrage that they manage to provoke."

"What Rush Limbaugh was to talk radio, Bill O'Reilly has been to conservative television," said Mark Feldstein, communication professor at the University of Maryland. "You can't underestimate the influence and the profits that he brought into Fox News for all these years and that's why they hesitated so long in doing the right thing."

to Fox staff that their decision to ax O'Reilly came following an "extensive review" into the charges.

"I understand how difficult this has been for many of you," Rupert Murdoch said in a memo to Fox staff.

O'Reilly, denied a chance to say goodbye to his Fox viewers, did so via a statement.

"It is tremendously disheartening that we part ways due to completely unfounded claims," he said. "But that is

the unfortunate reality that many of us in the public eye must live with today. I will always look back on my time at Fox with great pride in the unprecedented success we achieved and with my deepest gratitude to all my dedicated viewers."

O'Reilly's dismissal doesn't signal any change of direction for the network: Fox said conservative pundit Tucker Carlson would move into O'Reilly's time slot - the sec-

ond time in three months he's replaced an exiting prime-time personality. Carlson, a veteran who has hosted shows on CNN, MSNBC and PBS, had taken over for Megyn Kelly in January when she announced she was moving to NBC News. "The Five," a talk show with five rotating hosts that regularly airs at 5 p.m. ET, will move into the 9 p.m. time slot. Eric Bolling will host a new show that airs at 5 p.m. starting next month, the com-

pany said.

Dana Perino, who had been subbing for O'Reilly who had been on vacation for the past few days, acknowledged his departure at the top of "The Factor." At the end of the show, she paid him a warm tribute.

Noting the "dramatic changes," Perino said: "It is the end of the era. Bill has been the undisputed king of cable news, and for good reason."

She also noted his devoted fans and their loyalty to

NEW YORK (AP)—With its biggest star departing in another blowup over sexual harassment, Fox News faces some big challenges. It now has to show that it can hang on to its loyal army of conservative viewers, improve its working culture, and still continue to make big bucks for its corporate parent.

The company said Wednesday that it had parted ways with longtime host Bill O'Reilly after a "thorough and careful review of allegations against him." Dozens of advertisers ditched "The O'Reilly Factor" after a New York Times report detailed \$13 million in payouts to five women over his alleged abusive behavior; more allegations subsequently emerged. (O'Reilly denied the accusations.)

O'Reilly's departure is the second major blow for the right-leaning news network in nine months. Fox's longtime CEO Roger Ailes re-

O'Reilly's departure creates new challenges for Fox

signed abruptly amid similar sexual harassment charges last July. Its leading female star, Megyn Kelly, decamped for NBC in January.

The network's parent company, entertainment giant 21st Century Fox, insisted that Fox News will weather the current storm, noting in a statement the "strength of its talent bench" and expressing "full confidence that the network will continue to be a powerhouse in cable news."

That certainly could happen, though it probably won't be easy.

MONEY MACHINE

Some analysts believe that James and Lachlan Murdoch—the sons of 21st Century Fox executive chairman Rupert Murdoch—made the call on O'Reilly to change the Ailesian culture at the network and to cement their con-

trol following his departure.

"Getting rid of the old guard is a way to do that," said Dan Cassino, a professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University and the author of "Fox News & American Politics: How One Channel Shapes American Politics & Society."

But O'Reilly has been on Fox News for more than two decades. "The O'Reilly Factor" has generated a huge ad bonanza for Fox, one that yielded more than \$178 million in 2015. It's the top-rated show on the No. 1 cable network—one that, according to the investment bank Nomura's estimates, accounts for fully 20 percent of profits at 21st Century Fox.

Now, the top ratings for O'Reilly's time slot—and Fox's other prime-time shows—could be at risk. "He's been the linchpin" of

the lineup, said Jane Hall, an American University professor and former Fox contributor, who noted that it will take a while to see whether his loyal audience sticks with O'Reilly's replacement.

That will be Tucker Carlson, whose show is moving to the 8 p.m. slot on Fox. O'Reilly's ratings overshadow Carlson's, and his show's viewership fell this week while he was on vacation and other Fox hosts subbed in.

Others figure that O'Reilly's firing won't be a sticking point for most Fox viewers. "When we look at data, at what programs people report watching, you just don't find people who watch Bill O'Reilly and nothing else on Fox," Cassino said.

Fox also has a big financial safety cushion in the fees cable companies pay the network, which dwarf its

ad revenue, according to Nomura media analyst Anthony DiClemente. Even if there's some disruption in ad rates or spots, he said, there's a "massive backstop" in those payments, which are long-term deals.

BROADER AMBITIONS

Fox might also have found it financially risky let O'Reilly remain. Otherwise, the network risked developing "a reputation as unfriendly to women, potentially turning off a lot of people," said Charles Taylor, a marketing professor at Villanova University. Advertisers may have been reluctant to return if there were continuing harassment complaints. It could also have alienated employees.

And 21st Century Fox is much bigger than O'Reilly, Fox News and its aging,

conservative audience. It's home to movie and TV studios; a slew of sports and other cable channels; and the Fox broadcast network and shows like "The Simpsons," "Family Guy," and its latest hit, "Empire."

It's also home to ambitions that the O'Reilly crisis may have hindered. Fox owns 39 percent of European TV giant Sky, and has long wanted to take over the whole company. Its previous effort died in 2011, a casualty of the phone-hacking scandal at Rupert Murdoch's British newspapers. It's now trying again, although a U.K. media regulator must certify that the combined company would be a "fit and proper" owner of the broadcaster.

"Credit to James and Lachlan for doing the right thing here," said DiClemente, who noted that dealing with the O'Reilly controversy "in the right way" could be helpful for the Sky review.

1 year after Prince's death, another turn for The Revolution

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—For members of Prince's 1980s backing band The Revolution, reuniting and hitting the road for a spring U.S. tour is how they are coping with the "Purple Rain" pop superstar's unexpected death a year ago.

"We're taking it to the people who are grieving like we are, and letting them have a little bit of relief," guitarist Wendy Melvoin, sitting on a couch with other members of the band during a break at their Minneapolis rehearsal space, said Wednesday.

When Prince died of an accidental painkiller overdose, members of The Revolution were mourning at a Minneapolis hotel and made an impromptu video, promising to reunite for shows honoring their one-time flamboyant front man. After three sold-out shows at the fabled First Avenue nightclub (the



setting of Prince's hit 1984 movie "Purple Rain") in September, The Revolution is back, preparing to kick off a tour Friday at Paisley Park in the Minneapolis suburb of Chanhassen on the anniversary of Prince's death.

The tour includes stops in Chicago, Washington, D.C., New York, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles and San Francisco before ending in Seattle on July 15.

Melvoin is joined by bassist BrownMark, keyboardists Matt Fink and Lisa Coleman, and drummer Bobby Z. The reunited Revolution plans to play Prince's synthesizer-heavy 1980s music through

Four original members of Prince's 1980s band, The Revolution, appear before an interview Wednesday, April 19, 2017, in Minneapolis.

his lauded 1987 double album "Sign o' the Times."

"We have the ability now to give people a glimpse of what we experienced with him," BrownMark said. "And I think that's a powerful thing. I know it helped me heal."

While Prince had a reputation as a perfectionist, members of The Revolution remember the good times goofing in the studio.

"We had fun. We had a lot of fun. Sometimes we would be rehearsing and we'd crack up, we'd just laugh for an

hour, cracking jokes," BrownMark recalls.

"We'd go play softball," keyboardist Fink said. "OK, we're not going to rehearse today, let's go play softball."

After years of recording and touring with The Revolution, Prince "did what any boss would do and just put it (the band) to bed," Bobby Z. said.

"That intense run we had, all those years, it was starting to come apart at the seams, with personalities and under that kind of pressure, just like human beings do, and he just kind of made a decision," the drummer said. "And he wanted to move on as basically a solo artist with a backing band, no disrespect. But this was a band he was a very critical member of."

Love game for Serena: Spox says Williams is pregnant

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

It's another love game for Serena Williams: She is pregnant—and, based on the timeline she offered, she already was when she won the Australian Open.

A spokeswoman for Williams, Kelly Bush Novak, wrote in an email to The Associated Press on Wednesday: "I'm happy to confirm Serena is expecting a baby this Fall."

Earlier in the day, Williams posted a photo of herself on Snapchat with the caption "20 weeks," sparking all sorts of speculation on social media about whether she was, indeed, with child.

The 35-year-old Williams won her 23rd Grand Slam singles title at the Australian



Open in January—a little less than 12 weeks ago. She has not competed since, citing a knee injury when withdrawing from tournaments at Indian Wells, California, and Key Biscayne, Florida.

She announced in late December that she was engaged to Reddit co-founder

Alexis Ohanian.

Williams would appear to be out for the rest of this tennis season, a blow to a sport in which she is an unqualified star—and, of course, something that makes major titles easier to come by for other competitors. The next major tournament is the French

Open, which starts on May 28. Wimbledon begins in early July, and the U.S. Open in late August.

There is recent precedent for tennis players to return to action after becoming a mother. Kim Clijsters retired briefly to start a family, then came back to action and won Grand Slam titles. Another former No. 1 and major champion, Victoria Azarenka, has announced she'll be getting back on tour soon after having a baby.

Former Hillary Clinton aide writing memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—A former Hillary Clinton aide and speechwriter is writing a book about Clinton and her inner circle of advisers.

Penguin Press announced Wednesday that it had acquired Lissa Muscatine's "Hillaryland," which will chronicle her 25 years with Clinton. Penguin is calling "Hillaryland" a close look into "the tight-knit group of women" working with Clinton during her time as first lady, senator, secretary of state and presidential candidate.

Muscatine, who now co-owns a bookstore in Washington, wrote speeches for Clinton, advised her during her 2008 and 2016 presidential runs, and helped write the best-selling Clinton memoir "Living History."

No release date has been set for Muscatine's book.

Sick, and sicker: Apatow has new book of comedian interviews

NEW YORK (AP)—Judd Apatow likes nothing more than topping his own joke.

The filmmaker is putting together a sequel to his best-selling "Sick in the Head," which featured conversations with Mel Brooks, Jerry Seinfeld and other comedians. The new book could only be called "Sicker in the Head." It

includes Norman Lear, Kevin Hart and Whitney Cummings.

Random House, which announced the book Wednesday, said no release date has been set.

Apatow is known for comedies such as "Knocked Up" and "This Is 40." He is donating author proceeds from his new book to charity.

New study aims at stopping alzheimer's before it starts

DEAR ABBY: More than 10,000 baby boomers in the U.S. turn 65 every day, and enter the "age of risk" for Alzheimer's disease. I have witnessed the devastating effects of this disease in my work as a neurologist, as a clinical researcher, and sadly, in my own family.

The good news is that we are now starting prevention trials to try to stop memory loss before it begins! The A4 (Anti-Amyloid Treatment in Asymptomatic Alzheimer's) Study is the first clinical trial designed for people who have the earliest signs of Alzheimer's disease beginning in the brain, but don't yet have any symptoms of the disease. The A4 Study is enrolling healthy 65- to 85-year-olds across the country who may be at risk for memory loss due to Alzheimer's disease.

I feel a new sense of hope, but we really need volunteers to join us. Our motto for the A4 Study is "Now is the time," and now really IS the time to make a difference in defeating Alzheimer's disease. I hope your readers who are interested will call (toll-free) (844) 247-8839 or visit A4study.org to receive more information or to join us.

REISA SPERLING, M.D., PROJECT DIRECTOR,
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

DEAR DR. SPERLING: I'm pleased to alert my

readers to your clinical trial. Living to a "ripe old age" can be a mixed blessing because the older we get, the greater the likelihood of Alzheimer's disease entering the picture.

Readers, Dr. Sperling is looking for subjects with a family history of Alzheimer's disease or who, through prescreening, have been discovered to have amyloid plaques forming in the brain. There are more than 65 study sites throughout the U.S. and several in Canada, so you may be able to find a location near you.

DEAR ABBY: I have been somewhat taken aback by two retirement party invitations I received lately. Both require an "entrance fee" of \$15 to \$20. I have never heard of or experienced something like this before. When I retired from teaching 10 years ago, I held my own retirement party at my home. I supplied the food and beverages and requested "no gifts, please."

Is there a new custom that requires people to pay an admission price to a party? If someone pays to go to the party, is he/she also expected to bring a gift? Honestly, I'm a little put off being asked to pay to celebrate my friends' retirements. Should I be, or is this an appropriate request?

WONDERING IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR WONDERING: I don't blame you for feeling put off. I don't know who is supposedly giving the parties for your friends, but if you're being asked to pay for your food and beverages, it appears that no host is. If you pay to attend these parties, your PRESENCE should be your gift. And if you choose not to go, I wouldn't blame you.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

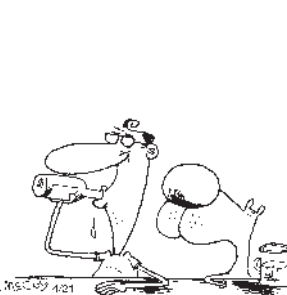
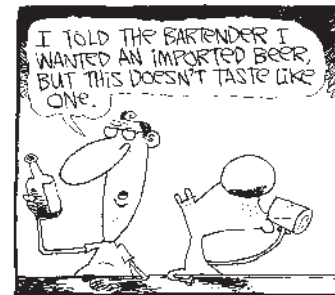


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Third degree?

4 Ha-rangue

8 Toad's kin

12 Vichy water

13 Sandwich treat

14 Garage job

15 Behave ostentatiously

17 Bickering

18 Stun guns

19 A billion years

21 Anonymous Jane

22 Harley riders

26 Plaintive poem

29 Actor Kilmer

30 Payable

31 Macadamize

32 Joke

33 Recognized

34 "— Mine" (Beatles song)

DOWN

35 "The A-Team" actor

36 Campus areas

37 Len of "Blue Bloods"

39 Future flower

40 Comic DeLuise

41 League newbie

45 Treaty

48 Yacht lover's event

50 "The King and I" role

51 Michigan, e.g.

52 — stand-still

53 Pizzazz

54 Scratched (out)

55 Indian bread

DOWN

1 Nuisance

2 "Funny!"

3 Pairs

4 Scotch cocktail

5 Got up

6 PBS funder

7 Pledge drive gift

8 Be on either side of

9 Trench closer

10 Kimono

11 Retrieve

16 Hunk of cheese

20 Texas tea

23 Author Ferber

24 Regretted

25 Stitches

26 Grand tale

27 Dalai —

28 Always

29 Cistern

32 Complain under one's breath

33 Praise

35 Cattle call

36 Repeated word for word

38 Suitcase attachment

39 Car pedal

42 Genghis —

43 Greek vowel

44 Actor McGregor

45 La —, Bolivia

46 Black-bird

47 Wolf

Blitzer's channel

49 Sturdy tree

Solution time: 27 mins.

DEAD	YAPS	HAN
UCLA	ETCH	ICY
BROWN	NOSE	GAP
SUPPDS	APH	D
—	Q	CAPOIS
CUBE	MAL	IR
ANA	APL	ORH
ICUE	UOC	SWAG
MAVEN	ET	
PHOTO	NURES	
IGU	GOLDENEVE	
LGT	LURAL	TURN
ETH	EASY	SPEED

Yesterday's answer 4-21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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15			16					17		
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		21				22		23	24	25
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34			35				36			
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			40			41		42	43	44
45	46	47			48	49				
50				51				52		
53				54				55		

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tony Romo, 37; Rob Riggle, 47; Andie MacDowell, 59; Iggy Pop, 70.

Happy Birthday: You can choose to let off steam or you can physically turn your dreams into a reality. Delegate your time and choose who you decide to work alongside with care. Don't neglect your health needs. Balance will be what keeps you in shape mentally, physically and emotionally. Think matters through and take action when you are fully prepared and success will be yours. Your numbers are 3, 11, 15, 24, 32, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Think fast, but don't box yourself into a corner. It will take precision and good planning if you want to come out on top. Don't rely on anyone to do a job for you. Do whatever it takes to do things right. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make solid choices based on facts and intelligence. Know your limitations and aim to create greater balance in your life. Play hard, work hard and make decisions and choices that will help you reach your goals and improve your health. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Channel your energy into things that truly matter to you. Rise above anyone who is playing dirty or trying to undermine you. Stay focused on what's important in order to foster better relationships. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stability should be your target. Don't let an emotional situation escalate into something you cannot control. Protect your position,

your reputation and your physical and emotional well-being. Offer peace, not chaos, if you want to maintain integrity. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Use your ability to tap into what's going on around you and it will spare you from being fooled by someone who is trying to take advantage of you. Use charm and diplomacy to present what you have to offer. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Express your thoughts and feelings and you will be able to bring about positive changes. Socialize with people who share your beliefs and interests. Explore new possibilities, but don't overspend or get involved in excessive behavior. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be faced with an unusual choice that could influence your financial, physical or legal well-being. Check in with someone you trust to give you the information you need to hear in order to make a decision. Choose peace over discord. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore new opportunities and check out anything that grabs your attention or feeds into a creative idea you've been mulling over. Expand your interests and you will make new friends. Personal improvements should be a priority. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look past the existing problems you face with a friend, relative or one of your colleagues and stay focused on the changes you can make to improve your own knowledge, skills and chance for greater opportunities. Secure your plans. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		2		8	1			
						9		
3					7		5	
				6		2		1
7								5
6		8		9				
	3		5					4
		7		1	3		6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	9	4	7	6	8	5	3	2
3	5	6	1	2	9	8	4	7
8	7	2	5	3	4	1	9	6
2	6	8	3	4	7	9	1	5
4	3	5	9	1	2	7	6	8
9	1	7	8	5	6	3	2	4
6	8	1	2	9	5	4	7	3
7	4	9	6	8	3	2	5	1
5	2	3	4	7	1	6	8	9

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★

4/21

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Learn from past experience. Too much of anything will drag you down. Concentrate on the people and projects that will help you make the highest return. Your aim should be to stabilize your life, not disrupt it. ★★★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The help you have offered to others in the past will be returned to you. Don't hesitate to share your ideas, intentions and future plans. The precise way you express what you want will make it easy for others to pitch in and help. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional situations will escalate and result in an argument if you aren't careful. Weigh the pros and cons before you get entangled in a no-win situation that is a waste of time and potentially dangerous to your reputation. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, experimental and innovative. You are intellectual and tenacious.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RADIOCARBON DATING

Solution: 11 letters

N O R T U E N Y R O V I O N S
O S T N U O C A L E N D A R T
I U I E T A N O B R A C T A N
T E P S R E R E P A P D O Y E
A T K U E N S D R T Y R M S G
I I C E R H O T O I I A S N Y
D C O A C E T I I O S L C B X
A L R L L A R T I N F L B E O
R A D K E C F E Y U G I E H D
S C E A P A I R T S L W T R N
A D T L O C L U U T O O A O O
M O E I T I U S M S A T V D T
P O C E O D N A E C O M O E O
L W T S S I S E H T O P Y H R
E N O B I H U M U S T N A L P

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Accuracy, Acid, Alkali, Atoms, Beta, Bone, Calcite, Calcium, Calendar, Carbonate, Count, Decay, Detect, Food, Humus, Hypothesis, Ions, Isotope, Ivory, Libby, Matter, Measure, Neutron, Ocean, Oxygen, Paper, Photosynthesis, Plants, Proton, Pure, Radiation, Ratio, Rays, Revolution, Rock, Sample, Seeds, Soil, Surface, Testing, Willard, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Selection
Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

LOOKING FOR SURROGATES
American Couples and Non-American Couples are seeking your help to fulfill their dream to have a child. If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please contact Evelyn @ 322-0419. Compensation is over \$22,000. Can also receive \$500 for referral of qualified candidate.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY SURROGATES
If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please call Evelyn @ 322-0419. Compensation is over \$22,000. Can also receive \$500 for referral of qualified candidate.

WHATZIT Solution: Alice Through the Looking Glass

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date
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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Art Edited by Andrew Mathew Synnathan

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #02-2017

Opening date: April 7, 2017 Closing date: April 28, 2017

Positions: (2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Tinian)
(2) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I (Tinian)
(1) Custodial-I (Tinian)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport of CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport is no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, April 28, 2017.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or at the CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at cpa.personnel@pticom.com or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Century Tours, Inc. invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Sales Associate, part-time (1)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Interested applicants may send their applications to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00PM on April 27, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.



Century Tours, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Century Tours, Inc. invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Sales Associate, full-time (3)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Interested applicants may send their applications to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00PM on April 26, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL I

For two (2) Positions
Announcement # JVA17-013/14
On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Director of Law Enforcement and Security in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms; and
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. The salary range will be \$16,652 - \$20,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



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Judiciary Administrative Office
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK I

Announcement # JVA17-014
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be \$20,485 - \$22,500 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
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michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

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- Baker

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- Room Attendant

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- General Cashier
- Account Payable Clerk
- Account Receivable Clerk
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Harper, Zimmerman hit grand slam as Nats rout Braves



ATLANTA
(AP)— Bryce Harper assumes everybody already knows the Washington Nationals will again be a team to watch in the National League.

Just in case, Harper and the Nationals made the point by putting on an offensive show at the Atlanta Braves' new park.

Harper had two homers, including a grand slam, among four hits and the Nationals overwhelmed Julio Teheran and the Braves 14-4 on Wednesday night. Harper drove in five runs. Ryan Zimmerman also hit a grand slam and the Nationals had 20 hits.

"I think everybody knows how good we are and what we can do," Harper said, adding the expected return of short-stop Trea Turner from the disabled list "is huge as well."

Harper's homers came in the first two innings as the Nationals led 6-2 early and kept adding runs.

His third-inning grand slam just cleared the reach of leaping Braves center fielder Ender Inciarte. Harper's seven career homers off Teheran are his most against any pitcher.

"It was just a bad day," Teheran said. "I didn't have it at all. Obviously, it was one guy that hurt me the most. He's hit me really good and he's one of the best hitters. But it's a long season. We'll meet again."

Zimmerman's eighth-inning grand slam off Ian Krol had some Braves fans heading for the exits at new SunTrust Park.

Even the potential bad news for Washington appeared to be only a scare.

Dodgers 4, Rockies 2

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw struck out a season-high 10 in seven innings to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a victory over the Colorado Rockies.

Kershaw (3-1) allowed two runs on five hits. He walked just one and was done after 97 pitches. It was the 52nd time in his career that Kershaw has struck out 10 or more, and the Dodgers are 41-11 in those games.

Kenley Jansen got his fourth save of the season. It was his second four-out save of the homestand.

Kershaw avenged an early season loss at Coors Field. The left-hander gave up three home runs in six innings on April 8.

Left-hander Tyler Anderson (1-3) went five innings for the Rockies, allowing four runs—two earned—while striking out five and walking one.

The Dodgers used a three-run fifth inning to break a 1-1 tie. Kershaw laid down



Washington Nationals' Ryan Zimmerman (11) celebrates after hitting a grand slam in the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, in Atlanta. AP

a sacrifice bunt and reached on an error. Corey Seager drove in his 100th career run in that inning.

Padres 1, Diamondbacks 1

In San Diego The Padres' Jhoulys Chacin is building quite a resume at Petco Park.

The San Diego right-hander threw eight scoreless innings and got an eighth-inning homer from Erick Aybar to beat the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Aybar, who had pitched to a batter the night before, pulled Zack Greinke's 82 mph slider just fair down the right-field line for the game's lone run.

"I was looking for a good pitch," Aybar said. "It was slider in the middle of the plate and I swing."

Mariners 10, Marlins 5

In Seattle, Miami's Ichiro Suzuki hit his first home run on the road in nearly four years in the Marlins 10-5 loss to the Mariners. The 43-year-old homered off Evan Marshall in possibly his final at-bat at Safeco Field, where he anchored right field and the top of Seattle's batting order for 11+ seasons.

Rookie Mitch Haniger extended his hitting streak to 13 games with three hits and four RBI, and Seattle won for the fifth time in six games.

A night after breaking up a potential no-hitter with a ninth-inning double, Haniger scored in the first inning, had a two-run single in the second and clanged a two-run double off the wall in deep center field

in the fourth.

Cubs 7, Brewers 4

In Chicago, Addison Russell hit a three-run homer off Neftali Feliz (0-2) that capped a four-run ninth inning.

Chicago trailed 4-1 before Willson Contreras' RBI single in the sixth Carlos Torres, and Russell's run-scoring single cut the deficit to one run in the eighth. Kris Bryant's RBI single tied the score.

Wade Davis (2-0) worked around a walk in the ninth.

Royals 2, Giants 0

In Kansas City, Jason Vargas (3-0) scattered four hits over seven innings with nine strikeouts and no walks, and Kansas City finally scored off Madison Bumgarner.

Joakim Soria pitched a perfect eighth in relief of Vargas, and Kelvin Herrera worked around a leadoff walk in the ninth for his third save.

Cardinals 2, Pirates 1

In St. Louis, Dexter Fowler hit his first two home runs for St. Louis, which completed a three-game sweep—all by 2-1 scores. The Cardinals are 6-9, winning their opener and losing nine of 11 before the sweep.

Fowler had three of the Cardinals' eight hits, including homers in the third and fifth off Gerrit Cole (1-2). Josh Bell had tied the score with a fourth-inning homer against Michael Wacha (2-1)

Athletics 9, Rangers 1

In Oakland, Khris Davis hit

his seventh home run of the season, Yonder Alonso and Chad Pinder also went deep.

Josh Phegley hit a two-run double in a four-run first that gave a quick lead to Jesse Hahn (1-1), who allowed one run and two hits over six innings, struck out four and walked four.

Davis hit a two-run homer in the fifth, his third home run in six games.

Yankees 9, White Sox 1

In New York, Aaron Judge hit a 448-foot homer, Masahiro Tanaka (2-1) pitched seven innings of one-run ball and New York completed its first stretch at Yankee Stadium this season 8-1, its most wins in a homestand since going 9-1 from July 17-26, 2009.

Judge followed Starlin Castro's three-run shot in the fifth for the Yankees' first back-to-back homers of the season. Chase Headley and Aaron Hicks also went deep to give New York a season high four home runs.

Blue Jays 3, Red Sox 0

In Toronto, Francisco Liriano (1-1) allowed four hits in 5 1/3 innings and combined with three relievers combined on a six-hitter.

Kevin Pillar had three hits for the second straight game and stole two bases as the Blue Jays won for the third time this season and improved to 2-6 on their homestand.

Toronto scored three unearned runs in the second against AL Cy Young Award

winner Rick Porcello (1-2) after errors by third baseman Pablo Sandoval and first baseman Mitch Moreland. Darwin Barney hit a two-run single and scored on Ezequiel Carrera's single.

Orioles 2, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Ubaldo Jimenez (1-0) held the Reds to a pair of singles in the second inning and four walks overall in 7 2/3 innings to overcome a dominating performance by rookie Amir Garrett (2-1), who struck out 12 in seven innings.

Jonathan Schoop singled home a run in the second, and Manny Machado hit a sacrifice fly in the fifth.

Brad Brach pitched the ninth for his first save, completing the Orioles' first shut-out this season.

Mets 5, Phillies 4

In New York, Jay Bruce homered twice and drove in five runs, including a tiebreaking shot in the eighth as New York ended its four-game losing streak.

New York trailed 2-0 with two outs in the sixth before Bruce lined a three-run homer off frustrated starter Vince Velasquez. Philadelphia pulled even in the eighth, but Yoenis Cespedes singled leading off the bottom half and Bruce connected again, this time against Edubray Ramos (0-2).

Hansel Robles (3-0) struck out his only batter, and Addison Reed earned his fourth save.

Astros 5, Angels 1

In Houston, Dallas Keuchel threw seven solid innings, Josh Reddick finished a single shy of the cycle and the Astros beat the Angels.

Keuchel (3-0) allowed one run on eight hits with seven strikeouts. The left-hander has allowed one run or fewer in all four of his starts, going seven innings in each outing.

Reddick tripled in the first and scored on a Jose Altuve single, doubled in the sixth and scored on an Evan Gattis single and hit a two-run homer to right in the seventh that went over Cameron Maybin's outstretched glove and fell in the first row. Reddick struck out in the third.

Rays 8, Tigers 7

In St. Petersburg, a throwing error by Jose Iglesias allowed two runs to score in the ninth inning as Tampa Bay rallied to beat Detroit.

The Tigers shortstop stumbled while trying to turn what would have been a game-ending double play, instead his error cost Detroit the victory.

Kevin Kiermaier opened the ninth with a walk. He advanced to third on Evan Longoria's double. Francisco Rodriguez (1-1) intentionally walked Brad Miller to load the bases. One out later, the closer got Logan Morrison to ground to second base and Iglesias couldn't complete the double play, as he stumbled making the turn. He was hurt on the play and was on the field for a few minutes before walking off under his own power.

Rockets overcome Westbrook's 51, put Thunder on the brink



HOUSTON (AP)—Russell Westbrook put up gaudy numbers on Wednesday night.

The Houston Rockets got a more modest performance from James Harden, but a collective scoring effort helped them rally for a 115-111 win over the Oklahoma City Thunder to take a 2-0 lead in the first-round Western Conference playoff series.

"It wasn't pretty," Harden said. "We didn't make a lot of shots. We gave them the early lead and we had to fight our way back and we did. We didn't give up. We continued to fight and grind and figure out a way to win."

Harden scored 35 points and the Rockets overcame 51 points from Westbrook in the highest-scoring triple-double in playoff history. Westbrook set a franchise playoff scoring record and added 13 assists and 10 rebounds. It was the sixth career playoff triple-double for Westbrook, who had an NBA-record 42 in the regular season.

But he shot just 4 for 18 in the fourth quarter and the Rockets clawed back from a double-digit deficit.

He was not in the mood to talk about his statistics after the game.

"I don't give a (expletive) about the line," he said before glaring at reporters. "We lost."

Thunder coach Billy Donovan thought Westbrook might have gotten tired late after playing the entire fourth quarter, but Westbrook brushed off that notion.

"Nah, I was all right," he said.

Game 3 is Friday night in Oklahoma City.

The game was tied before



Houston Rockets center Nene Hilario (42) is fouled by Oklahoma City Thunder forward Domantas Sabonis (3) during the first half in Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Wednesday, April 19, 2017, in Houston.

That became a talking point during the off days, and perhaps affected the way Game 2 was called. It was hardly akin to a mixed martial arts bout, but the officials sure seemed determined to use their whistles upon seeing anything resembling a foul.

Warriors 110, Trail Blazers 81

In Oakland, Stephen Curry scored 19 points on an off night, JaVale McGee sparked Golden State off the bench with 15 points, and the short-handed Warriors beat the

Portland Trail Blazers 110-81 in Game 2 of their first-round playoff series Wednesday night without injured leading scorer Kevin Durant.

McGee shined on a night none of the usual stars found their consistent shooting strokes. The backup big man made all seven of his field-goal attempts and delivered several more of his signature alley-oop dunks as Durant watched with a strained left calf he hurt in the playoff opener Sunday.

Draymond Green had another fantastic all-around game, getting 12 rebounds, 10 assists, six points and three more blocked shots after swatting five in Sunday's win.

Curry went 6 for 18 and also had six assists and six rebounds. Klay Thompson was 6 of 17 with 16 points and CJ McCollum and Damian Lillard struggled.

Houston scored 10 straight points with 3-pointers from Harden, Patrick Beverley and Eric Gordon to make it 114-104 with 1:22 remaining.

"Down the stretch you've just got to be ready," Gordon said. "James draws a lot of attention. So I was ready for that shot. It was great timing to knock down a shot like that."

Westbrook had four straight points to start a 7-1 run after that, but the Thunder wouldn't get any closer.

This was a much different game than the series opener, when Houston routed the Thunder 118-87. On Wednesday night, Houston trailed by as many as 15 and didn't take a lead until the fourth quarter.

The Rockets benefited from a balanced scoring attack, with Lou Williams adding 21, Gordon scoring 22 off the bench and Game 1 star Beverley chipping in 15.

Wizards 109, Hawks 101

In Washington, in a rough-and-tumble, foul-filled game, Bradley Beal took over in the fourth quarter with 16 of his 31 points, including a key late 3-pointer, helping the Washington Wizards beat the Atlanta Hawks for a 2-0 lead in their Eastern Conference first-round series.

John Wall earned chants of "M-V-P!" while finishing with 32 points and nine assists, including the dish to Beal for his shot from beyond the arc with 38 seconds remaining that sealed the win for the hosts.

Washington, which trailed 78-74 entering the final period, won despite only a combined seven points from starting forwards Markieff Morris and Otto Porter Jr., who were both in foul trouble early.

The series now shifts to Atlanta for Game 3 on Saturday.

Paul Millsap led the Hawks with 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Dennis Schroder scored 23 points. But Dwight Howard had only seven rebounds, half his Game 1 total, and six points.

Millsap scored 14 points in the third quarter, including six during a 13-0 run by the Hawks that took them from a deficit to a 74-67 edge with a little more than 3 1/2 minutes left in that period. But Beal and Wall were too much in the fourth, with some help from backup point guard Brandon Jennings, who accounted for eight consecutive Wizards points during one stretch -- making three baskets and assisting on another.

After Washington won the series opener over the weekend, Millsap bemoaned aloud about how things went, saying: "The difference in the game is we were playing basketball and they were playing MMA."

Spurs, Cavs look to take big step toward series sweeps

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs haven't lost a playoff game in the Bluff City since 2011, and the Memphis Grizzlies haven't beaten them anytime or anywhere since winning that first-round series.

Spurs guard Tony Parker doesn't believe any of that matters.

"We have a lot of respect for Memphis," Parker said Wednesday. "They made it hard on us during the regular season, and I expect them to play very well at home. And we know a series can change very fast. We've been up two in the past and a team came back, so I just want to make sure we stay focused."

So do the Cleveland

Cavaliers.

Like the Spurs, the Cavaliers can take a big step a toward potential first-round sweep Thursday night when they play at Indiana. While San Antonio is looking to sweep Memphis for a third straight playoff series, the Cavaliers are 12-0 in series when they go up 2-0.

Having LeBron James, Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love locked in sure helps.

"Having those guys is a great luxury because every night two of the three should play well," Cavs coach Tyronn Lue said. "And if two of the three guys play well and we get someone to pitch in off the bench we're pretty unstoppable."



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Bodybuilding and physique competition set for July



The CNMI Bodybuilding and Physique Championship 2017 will take place in July.

Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation is organizing the annual competition and will announce the exact date and venue of the event later.

The federation is expecting more participants to its second offering for the season as bodybuilders on the island have a longer time to prepare for the tournament.

The competition is open to the following categories (tentative): masters' men bodybuilding and physique; open men bodybuilding and physique; junior men bodybuilding and physique; masters women body building, physique, fitness, bikini; and open women bodybuilding, physique, fitness, bikini; junior women bodybuilding, physique, bikini.

For more information, contact John Davis at 789-9211, Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807 or Jocelyn Itibus at 287-1232.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
A participant in last year's CNMI Bodybuilding and Physique Championships strikes a pose for the judges.

OL'ACES

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board for the Sonics XVIII and Roberto Paragados carried most of the load for the losing team after firing 18 points.

The Ol'Aces Elite led from start to finish against Sonics XVIII.

Versus Mt. Carmel, the Ol'Aces Elite recovered from an 8-point deficit midway in the first half to steal the victory from the Knights.

Capitalizing on the Ol'Aces Elite's failure to quickly get back on defense, Mt. Carmel

managed to take a 22-14 advantage at the halfway mark of the first half after getting away with a couple of fast-break layups.

The Ol'Aces Elite sued for time and when the game resumed, it regrouped and forced the Knights to commit errors and turned them into baskets. The Ol'Aces Elite's recovery moved the team within 3 at halftime, 22-25.

The Knights eventually lost the lead in the second half, no thanks to Xavier Okaruru's 4 straight baskets and his teammates' support. Mt. Carmel

could not keep the driver's seat as it was held to five field goals in the second half, while the Ol'Aces Elite hit more targets.

TUESDAY

Ol'Aces Elite 52 — Okaruru 12, Elchico 10, Abejo 9, Saralu 8, Quitugua 4, Ichihara 4, Agustin 2, Reyes 2.

MCS 43 — Yu 13, Yun 13, Quitugua 9, Richardson 8.

Scoring by quarters: 26-22, 52-43.

WEDNESDAY First Game

Ol'Aces Elite 42 — Abejo

minutes of play.

The first half ended with Ali'i/Blue Haus holding a shaky lead, 50-49, while the opposing teams were even after the opening canto, 23-23. Ali'i/Blue Haus then gained more cushion in the third canto, 75-70, thanks to the combined 13 points of Talaria and Esdrelon. Then in the fourth canto, it was the turn of Pagarao and Fernando to join forces in keeping Ali'i/Blue Haus in the driver's seat against the young guns of Stephen's Pawnshop, which played without Douglas Schmidt.

Meanwhile, Frank Ferrer fired 27 points, while Sid Quan chipped in 15 to lift Cuadro PS to victory against

Kagman.

The nightcap was also a close game, but Cuadro PS prevailed in the end, thanks to its Top 2 scorers. Ferrer and Quan registered all of Cuadro PS' points in the fourth quarter to cancel out the successive baskets of Trevor Ogumoro for Kagman.

In other results this week, Arianne Fish Mart and United Ballers posted contrasting wins last Monday. United Ballers pulled off a 70-67 triumph over Bolleros, while Arianne eased past Sweep Waters, 115-91.

First Game

Ali'i/Blue Haus 92 — Esdrelon 14, Fernando 13, Talaria 11, De Dios 11, Barbo 10,

Dolphin Club Saipan holds free swim classes for adults

The Dolphin Club Saipan will hold swim classes for adults, starting next month.

Monday and Wednesday morning sessions will be held at Micro Beach in front of the Skipper's Bar at the Hyatt Regency Saipan from 6am to 7am, while Tuesday and Thursday swims will take place in the wa-

ters near Civic Center Court in Susupe, also from 6am to 7am, on May 2, 9, 11, 16, 18, 25, and 30. There will be afternoon sessions, too every Tuesday and Thursday (May 4 and 23) from 4pm to 5pm.

For the session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, the schedule is from 2pm to

3pm every Saturday.

Dolphin Club Saipan is the water safety program of 500 Sails. Swimming is a requirement for owning your own canoe.

For more information, send email to dolphinclubsaipan@500sails.org or call 285-4268. (PR)

Falcons look to move on after epic Super Bowl collapse



FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga.

(AP)—After a Super Bowl championship was ripped from his grasp, MVP Matt Ryan needed some time to grieve.

He wasn't alone on the Atlanta Falcons.

This one hurt.

A lot.

"It sucks. There's no getting around it," Ryan said Wednesday. "You hang on to it for a little bit. You're in kind of your spot, whatever that is, your dark place for a little bit. Then you realize life goes on."

For the Falcons, that reality began to sink in this week when they returned to their training complex in Atlanta's sprawling northern suburbs to begin nearly two months of offseason workouts.

Being together again, with a new goal to shoot for, put a bit of salve on their epic collapse at the Super Bowl, where the Falcons squandered a 25-point lead in the second half and lost in overtime to Tom Brady and the New England Patriots.

"We addressed it. We talked about it," Ryan said. "And I felt like it was very clear that everybody was focused on what's in front of us."

Coach Dan Quinn, who coined the mantra "brotherhood" to illustrate the closeness of his team during its drive to the title game, has already come up with a new catchphrase to stress where the Falcons are at heading into the 2017 season.

He calls this "base camp"—as in, the point where his team will regroup and start climbing again after coming up just short of the summit.

"In the Everest world of the climbers, where they go to base camp, they take a shot, get acclimated, come back, and keep going for it," Quinn said.

The Falcons return largely the same team, built around a dynamic offense led by Ryan at quarterback and a young defense that showed enormous promise until Brady pulled off his unprecedented comeback.

But there have been some big changes in the past couple of months, most notably on the coaching staff. Offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan left to become head coach of the San Francisco 49ers and was succeeded by former Washington and Southern Cal coach Steve Sarkisian. Rich-

ard Smith was dumped as defensive coordinator, replaced in house by secondary coach Marquand Manuel.

"We've got different guys in the building now. We're going to be a different team than we were last year," Ryan said. "Our focus needs to be in front of us."

And how's this for timing: While the Falcons were talking about moving on, the Patriots were at the White House being congratulated again for their stunning victory.

It will be interesting to see how the Falcons cope with such a monumental disappointment.

There's no set template to draw guidance from, since some athletes who've been through a similar ordeal seemed to carry it with them the rest of their careers (golfer Jean van de Velde never came close to another major title after throwing away the 1999 British Open on the 72nd hole).

Others have used it as motivation to reach greater heights (the Boston Red Sox won the World Series in 2004 after a brutal meltdown in the playoffs the year before).

The Falcons are determined to follow the latter path.

"This is the team that wants to prove things—prove how strong they are, how tight they are, how connected they are," Quinn said. "Obviously, we addressed (the Super Bowl). But we also talked about, now, no more looking back in the rearview. 2017 is officially here, and let's go for it like we never have before."

ALI'I/BLUE

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were among the double figurer scorers for Ali'i/Blue Haus as the former earned 13 points, 6 of them came in the final canto, while the latter had 4 of his 10 markers in the payoff frame. Elmer Esdrelon led Ali'i/Blue Haus' balance scoring with his 14 markers, while Brendon Talaria and Marlon De Dios chipped in 11 each, and Darwin Barbo contributed 10.

Stephen's Pawnshop also had multiple players breaking into twin digits, but just could not slip past Ali'i/Blue Haus in the second half after going neck-and-neck with the eventual winner in the first 20

Pagarao 10, Guiab 6, Berline 5, Peredo 5.

Stephen's Pawnshop 85 — M. Duenas 18, Aranda 15, Rabasto 15, E. Duenas 13, Abuy 7, Joyner 6, Lewis 6.

Scoring by quarters: 23-23, 50-49, 75-70, 92-85.

Second Game

Cuadro PS 76 — Ferrer 27, Quan 15, Gamboa 10, Directo 6, Leyco 3, Gontar 3, Velasco 2, Estolas 2.

Kagman 70 — B. Babauta 15, Ogumoro 14, Camacho 9, Faisao 6, Palacios 4, hocog 4, Mettao 4, R. Babauta 4, Limes 4, Sablan 2, Satur 2, Magofna 2, Pangelinan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-21, 39-38, 58-54, 76-70.

TAGAMAN

From Page 36

hopes to keep the competition running by bringing in more off-island participants," Castro said.

Aquathlon/10K run tomorrow

Meanwhile, TRAC is hosting a pre-Tagaman Triathlon event this weekend with the staging of the 2nd Aquathlon/10K Run.

The aquathlon will feature a 2.5K run, 1K swim, and 2.5K run with the swim leg to be held in the waters near the

submerged World War II tanks in Susupe and the run leg turnaround across the Saipan Mayor's Office along Beach Road. For the 10K run, participants will leave the Kilili Beach and head north all the way to Bank of Guam (across) and back to the start line.

Registration is only \$10 and go time is at 6:30am.

This weekend's event is supported by Kanoa Resort, Islander CarRental, Eco-sure Insurance, Sand Castle Saipan, NMICF Let's Go Tour, Fiesta Resort & Spa, and PIC-Saipan.

CNMI vs Jinshan District

PHOTOS By EAST ASIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION



The CNMI Girls U15 National Team's Princess Alcantara, left, and Esther Jones, right, sandwich a Jinshan District player during the first half of their game in the EAFF U15 Girls Tournament 2017 Jinshan Sports Center last Sunday in Shanghai, China.



The CNMI's Hannah Santos, left, battles a Jinshan District player for possession.



The CNMI's Shairmaine Francisco takes a shot.



The CNMI's Shairmaine Francisco, left, and Julianne Hall, right, try to catch up on defense.



A Jinshan District player goes up against three CNMI defenders.



The CNMI's Lillian Podziewski, 9, stays close on defense against a Jinshan District player.



The CNMI's Princess, left, kicks the ball.



CNMI goalie Theresa Toves kicks the ball.



Harper,
Zimmerman hit
grand slam as
Nats rout Braves

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Rockets overcome
Westbrook's 51,
put Thunder on
the brink

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ol'Aces Elite, Ol'Aces triumph



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
An Ol'Aces Elite player, center, fumbles as he faces two Mt. Carmel School defenders during the first half of their boys U18 division game in the Diaz youth caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces Elite notched twin wins this week, while its sister team the Ol'Aces also prevailed in the boys U18 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League.

The Ol'Aces Elite first topped Mt. Carmel School, 52-43, last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and then outclassed the Sonics XVIII in last Wednesday's curtain-raiser, 42-34, while the Ol'Aces romped past the Natibu Warriors in the second match, 60-33.



points, but these were way behind the 26 markers he drilled in their 104-33 rout of Agape Christian School last Monday.

In the first game last Wednesday, the Ol'Aces Elite also spread the wealth to beat the Sonics XVIII.

No Ol'Aces Elite player broke into double figures, but four combined for more than half of the team's total output with E.J. Abejo and Renato Gaviola tallying 9 points each and Rikko Saralu and Traven Quitugua adding 7 apiece. Two more Ol'Aces Elite players made it to the squad's box scores.

In contrast, only four hit the

See OL'ACES on Page 34

Ali'i/Blue Haus keeps streak; Cuadro PS wins



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Cuadro PS' Webster Gontar, left, is fouled by a Kagman defender during the third quarter of their game in the San Antonio summer caging last Wednesday at the San Antonio court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Ali'i/Blue Haus prevailed in the battle of undefeated teams after edging Stephen's Pawnshop, 92-85, in the first game in the 2017 San Antonio Summer Basketball League last Wednesday at the San Antonio court.

Angelo Fernando and Lerio Pagarao hit timely baskets in the fourth quarter and Ali'i/Blue Haus also knocked in clutch free throws to take the 7-point win and extend the team's streak to four. Stephen's Pawnshop absorbed its first loss after four matches.

Fernando and Pagarao

See ALI'I/BLUE on Page 34

New date, new course for Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

This year's Tagaman Triathlon will be held on June 24 and will feature a new course.

The road triathlon, which is usually held either in March or April as part of Saipan Sportsfest along with XTERRA Saipan and Saipan Marathon, will move its 1.5K swim leg to the waters of Kanoa Resort (official Tagaman Triathlon hotel) in Susupe from Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio. For the swim-bike and bike-run transitions, participants will have to go to Minatchom Atdao Pavilion. The bike run transition in the past Tagaman was located at the American Memorial Park.

From the pavilion, triathletes will head north up to Banzai Cliff and back to Minatchom Atdao for the 40K bike leg, while the 10K run portion will have its turnaround near

the Chamolinian Utt in Gapan.

Registration is now open with an early bird fee of \$125. Entrance fees turned in after May 10 will be \$150 and the fees are the



same for the individual and team participants. Cash prizes await the Top 3 finishers in the women's and men's open categories. Entry forms are available online at www.saipantriathlon.com.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Brad Ruszala, left, and Russ Quinn, right head to the swim-bike transition area at the Pacific Islands Club during last year's Tagaman Triathlon. This year's Tagaman will start in the waters off Kanoa Resort.

lon.com.

Ricky Castro of the Triathlon Association of the CNMI, which is working with Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation in helping Marianas Visitors Authority handle this year's Tagaman, said at this early, some Guam triathletes have expressed interest in joining the competition. Castro is hoping to surpass last year's turnout (120) as TRAC and NMICF reach out to both on-island and off-island athletes. The TRAC official will go the Philippines next week to watch a triathlon event and encourage triathletes to try Tagaman Triathlon.

"Tagaman is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, triathlon events in the Pacific and the CNMI triathlon community

See TAGAMAN on Page 34